

Belgian official arrives for talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jos Chabert, vice president of the Brussels capital government in Belgium, arrived in Amman Sunday on a week-long visit to Jordan. Mr. Chabert is scheduled to hold talks with the ministers of industry and trade, youth and tourism and could be received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein, the Belgian embassy in Amman said. The Belgian official, who leaves Amman on Oct. 8, was expected to review Jordanian-Belgian relations and cooperation in industrial and trade affairs. Industry and Trade Minister Rima Khalaf Huneidi received the visiting Belgian official at the airport.

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Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali answers a question to a joint press conference he held with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Sunday (Petra photo)

Israel shows more logic in border talks — Majali

Israel accepts Jordanian sovereignty over northern plot, prime minister says

GCC move to end partial boycott of Israel positive but needs Arab endorsement

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has "found Israel's response to the Kingdom's demands for the return of Jordanian land as 'logical and acceptable,'" and that the Jewish state has also agreed to recognize Jordanian sovereignty over a plot of land near the confluence of the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers in the north, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Sunday.

The prime minister also welcomed as positive a decision by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members to end the secondary and tertiary extensions of the Arab boycott of Israel but said the move should be endorsed by the Arab League.

"I think it is a positive move, but it has to be confirmed by the Arab League because the decision of boycott was that of the Arab League," said the prime

minister. The issue "will be discussed in the very near future."

Dr. Majali, addressing a joint press conference with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, also appeared to leave the door open for possible leasing of land along the borders to Israel after the Kingdom and Israel demarcate their boundaries.

The prime minister's comments came two days after His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said after a summit meeting in Aqaba that "several issues remain to be resolved" in Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is scheduled to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the White House on Monday and it is expected that Israel would announce its intention in principle to withdraw from Jordanian territories it has occupied since 1948.

In an interview with the Jordan Times on Saturday, Dr. Majali said Israel had expressed its readiness to withdraw from Jordanian territory after delineating the borders and maps were drawn up. But, he said, no date has been set for an Israeli withdrawal "because the process had to be finalized in the right perspective."

Dr. Majali told Sunday's press conference that at the Aqaba summit, "we thought that their (Israel's) understanding of our position and our interpretation of the delineation of borders is quite logical and acceptable," Dr. Majali said. "But to turn that delineation into demarcation is going to take a long time."

Both sides have agreed to "continue the serious (negotiations) because for us this is very serious," Dr. Majali said. "In principle, we will never give up an inch of our territories, whatever the case

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Mahathir describes visit as fruitful, upbeat on cooperation

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Sunday capped his first visit to Jordan with the signing of several agreements on cooperation and expressing confidence that trade and economic ties between the two countries would continue to grow.

"Dr. Mahathir also said he found the conditions in Jordan to be quite conducive to investments and voiced hope that Malaysian businessmen would bring in capital to the Kingdom after being familiarized with the incentives that the government offers to foreign investors."

The Malaysian premier's talks here also covered the setting up of Jordanian and Malaysian embassies in each other's capitals. "It is only a matter of time" before the missions are established, Dr. Mahathir said.

Addressing a joint press conference with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Dr. Mahathir reaffirmed his country's political stand vis-à-vis Israel and the status of Jerusalem. He said Kuala Lumpur would not extend recognition to the Jewish state until a Middle East peace settlement satisfactory to the Arabs was reached. "Malaysia will not recognize Israel until we consider Israel has fulfilled all the obligations in the peace pro-

cess with its Arab neighbours," he said. "Once the Arab neighbours are satisfied by the response and the actions of Israel then Malaysia will take its own decision with regard to recognising Israel."

On Jerusalem, he said, the stand of Malaysia, a member of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, "is the same as the attitude of the Arab countries."

"We have always supported Jordan's stand on Jerusalem and the Palestinians' stand on Jerusalem," he said. "We would of course like our people be allowed to visit... Al Aqsa."

Once restrictions on access to Jerusalem are removed, Dr. Mahathir said, Malaysians would like to visit the Holy City.

Dr. Mahathir described his visit to the Kingdom as a "success and fruitful" and "extremely worthwhile for Malaysia and, hopefully, for Jordan."

Noting that the two sides had several accords during his visit, Dr. Mahathir expressed confidence that "following upon this visit and meetings within the private sector, there will be a great deal of activity in trade and economic cooperation between Jordan and Malaysia."

avoiding dual-taxation, a trade agreement and an investment promotion agreement.

"We came here fully believing that there are opportunities for investments here," said Mr. Mahathir, who is accompanied by a large delegation of Malaysian businessmen. "I must confess that after having come to Jordan, the situation here is much more conducive to investment."

"I believe that this is also the feeling of our businessmen. However, we need to know more details of the law with regard to investment by foreign companies as well as whatever incentives and conditions that are considered suitable by the Jordanian government. Once we get these details, I think investments should follow."

"The sky is the limit," said the Malaysian premier who asked whether any ceiling was set for Jordanian-Malaysian trade.

Dr. Majali also described Dr. Mahathir's visit to Jordan as of "great importance," particularly that the Middle East is expected to witness a major boom in regional development after the peace process produces security and stability in the region.

"We will try to promote trade as much as possible," said Dr. Mahathir. "I think there is room, quite a great

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Crown Prince, Peres meet ahead of White House talks

Jordan and Israel say progress made but peace accord needs more work

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter
with agency dispatches

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday met in New York with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres ahead of another meeting scheduled for today (Monday) at the White House hosted by President Bill Clinton.

Jordan Television said Prince Hassan and Mr. Peres discussed developments in the Middle East peace process and efforts exerted to support it.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, the King's political advisor Marwan Al Qassem, Information Minister Jawad Al Anani, Transport Minister Samir Kassar, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan and Jordanian Ambassador in Washington Fayez Tarawneh.

On the Israeli side, the meeting was attended by several senior officials.

Earlier in the day, the Crown Prince refused to speculate on whether Jordan and Israel would sign a peace treaty this year.

"I don't want to get into the business of raising expectations... But I would say that 1994 is the threshold year," he said, responding to a query on when a peace

treaty would be signed. He indicated that "substantial progress" has been made in the last year towards an agreement between the two countries.

Asked if new progress was expected to be announced on water rights and border issues, the Crown Prince said, "I don't think we would be talking if there were no progress."

Monday's White House session would come a year after the first meeting between the Crown Prince and Mr. Peres, hosted by Mr. Clinton when the U.S.-Jordan-Israel Trilateral Committee was established on Oct. 1, 1993.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin stressed Sunday that "differences remain" between Israel and Jordan in the attempt to draw up a border, officials said.

Mr. Rabin told the weekly cabinet meeting that the border dispute had not been settled when he and His Majesty King Hussein met at Aqaba, said the officials who refused to be named.

Nonetheless, ministers were optimistic that the differences would be overcome and a peace treaty eventually signed.

"What counts is that we are heading towards a peace agreement with Jordan," Agriculture Minister Yaakov Zur said after the meeting.

Mr. Peres also stressed the amount of work still to be done by the two countries' negotiators, in an interview with Israeli radio from New York Sunday.

"It will be a business meeting," Mr. Peres said, referring to his White House meeting with the Crown Prince.

"We will make the maximum effort to find a solution to a long list of problems between the two countries, such as water-sharing and increasing investments between the two countries."

Crown Prince Hassan and Mr. Peres were also to discuss issues such as water-sharing and security, which must be settled before a peace accord is signed, officials said.

The discussions were also to cover the International Economic Conference on the Middle East and North Africa, to be held from Oct. 31 to Nov. 1 in Morocco.

In Amman, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Israel had agreed in principle to withdraw from Jordanian territory it occupied in 1948 and recognise the Kingdom's sovereignty over a piece of territory in the north.

"They (Israel) admitted and accepted that sovereignty (over the plot) was Jordan's though the ownership is not

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League rejects GCC's decision

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Arab League said on Sunday that a decision by six Gulf states to relax a 47-year-old economic boycott of Israel was invalid.

"The Arab boycott of Israel was imposed by a decision taken by the Arab League Council and it is up to it to call it off," a statement by the Cairo-based Arab League said.

The League Council holds the full authority in this matter and based on that the Arab boycott (of Israel) is continuing as long as the council does not decide on taking the necessary procedures to end the boycott," it added.

Six Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, said on Friday they were ending their boycott of companies that trade with Israel in a move they said was aimed at marking progress in the Middle East peace talks.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries also said they would support any move within the Arab League to abolish a ban on direct trading with Israel if this was sponsored by an Arab party taking part in the peace talks.

Talaat Hamed, spokesman for Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid, said in a statement the Arab League would only review the boycott under the following two rules:

— Any member state should ask that the boycott clause be included on the agenda of the league's next regular meeting.

— The council would hold an emergency meeting to review the boycott if two member states requested it.

The easing of the boycott opens the way for multinational companies to invest in Israel, political and business leaders said.

"A new era is beginning for foreign investment in Israel," predicted Chamber of Commerce Chairman Danny Gillerman.

"I hope that from now on European companies, mainly French, German and English who were afraid of the boycott, will invest here."

Israel says it lost some \$40 billion due to the boycott since 1948, through a reduction of up to two per cent in annual growth, according to a study by the chamber of commerce.

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Washington penalises Israel \$215 million

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The United States was expected to chop \$215 million from loan guarantees to Israel as punishment for spending in the occupied territories this year, the finance ministry said Sunday.

Israel has informed the United States that it has poured some \$310 million into the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But Washington would recognise that \$95 million went on military spending resulting from the agreement on Palestinian autonomy, signed in September 1993, the ministry said.

Last year the United States slashed \$437 million from the annual \$2 billion in loan guarantees.

Congress provided for up to \$10 billion in loan guarantees over five years to help settle immigrants from the former Soviet Union in Israel.

The penalty clause was added to discourage the spread of Jewish settlements in occupied territory.



King congratulates Yemeni president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday congratulated Yemeni leader Ali Abdullah Saleh on his reelection as president, saying that his reelection by representatives of the Yemeni people reflects the Yemeni people's confidence in him.

In a cable to the Yemeni President, King Hussein said President Saleh had been shouldering his responsibility over the past years to build the united and democratic Yemen.

King Hussein noted the brotherly relations between the Jordanian and Yemeni people, saying that the selection of Amman by representatives of the various Yemeni groups and parties as a venue for signing the accord and reconciliation agreement and enhancing bases of reform, security, and progress, in February this year embodied the unique brotherly relations between the two peoples and reflected the

joint pan-Arab vision. The King said Jordanians had been advocates for a comprehensive pan-Arab renaissance based on principles of freedom, democracy, justice and tolerance.

"The Jordanian people have stood by right, dialogue and unity because they believe in people's participation in shaping their present and future at this changing world, where there is no room for weakness, backwardness, oppression," King Hussein said in his cable.

The King added that Jordan had done its best during the peak of the Yemeni crisis to diffuse tension, prevent bloodshed, unify Yemeni ranks and resolve differences through dialogue.

The King wished President Saleh every success in achieving Yemen's aspirations in progress and prosperity.

Peres hails accord on ties with Tunisia

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Sunday an agreement on normalising relations with Tunisia was a "first-rate achievement" stretching Israel's diplomatic foothold in North Africa.

"This is an opening which we will pursue until we attain a full agreement on relations," Mr. Peres told Israel Radio from New York. "At this point we have some sort of relations with three North African states, namely Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia."

Mr. Peres and Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia, in New York for the U.N. General Assembly, announced on Saturday that Belgium would represent Israel's interests in Tunis and Tunisia's in Tel Aviv.

Representatives would be sent to the Belgian embassies in both cities, a joint statement said. A Tunisian economic liaison office also is to open in Gaza and Jericho.

"I regard this development as a first-rate achievement," Mr. Peres said in the radio interview. "I attribute importance to the fact that the issue has been made public — there are no secrets here."

Israeli officials had said they hoped Tunisia would be

the next Arab state to follow Morocco's lead in establishing low-level diplomatic ties with Israel.

"Tunisia and Israel are encouraged by the progress accomplished so far in the Middle East peace process. Based on that, the two countries have decided to begin a process aimed at normalising their relations," an Israeli statement said.

"The two foreign ministers expect that these initiatives will lead to long-term missions and eventually permanent representation."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Mr. Peres went straight to Morocco after the Sept. 13 ceremony for the PLO accords.

In July, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin became the first Israeli official to visit Tunisia for multilateral Middle East peace talks.

Tunisia launched direct telephone links with Israel at that time and then in mid-August an envoy of Mr. Rabin met President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in Tunis.

Tunisian officials and the media remained tight-lipped on Sunday on the Israeli announcement.

There was no official reaction.

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Palestinian police launch crackdown on DFLP opponents

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian police arrested 52 members of the opposition Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) in a pre-dawn swoop Sunday, the organisation said.

Palestinian self-rule authority officials said the arrests were spurred by a shooting attack on a patrol in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli military officials said its patrols came under fire near the settlement of Netzarim and at the Kissufim border crossing into the Strip. No one was hurt.

Nabil Abu Rudeina, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's spokesman, said the shooting was claimed by the

DFLP as "an attempt to embarrass the Palestinian authority."

"The authority is implementing law and order does not allow any party to violate security and order," he said.

Nehad Abu Ghosh, a member of the DFLP central committee, said police "broke into houses and arrested scores — we have 52 names, among them cadres and leaders of the DFLP."

Those held in the first large-scale arrest of the organisation's followers included Jaber Kirinawi, an employee at the organisation's health department, and Wael Khalaf, the DFLP representative in negotiations with other

PLO factions.

Mr. Abu Ghosh described the crackdown as "a political decision meant to break DFLP opposition to the Oslo and Cairo agreements, using security as an excuse."

DFLP spokesman Abdul Latif Al Haj said a statement claiming responsibility for the attack and insulting the Palestinian National Authority was found at the scene. But he denied any link with the DFLP Gaza branch.

"We are only involved in democratic acts. As the front in Gaza, we have no links to the secret, military wing which follows orders from abroad."

The DFLP and nine other factions and groups opposed

to the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy deal function mainly out of Damascus.

The DFLP has also vowed to fight autonomy through democratic means in the self-rule areas.

In a crackdown early last month following an attack on Israelis, Palestinian police rounded up 12 DFLP members among dozens of other suspects. All but three have since been released.

A spokesman for the PNA said earlier that about 40 DFLP activists were detained in response to a leaflet issued by the organisation threatening to "start civil war."

But reporters could not obtain the leaflet and the DFLP denied it had issued

one. Tensions have been high in recent weeks between the DFLP and Palestinian authorities over police demands that the group obtain a permit for rallies it planned to hold in Gaza.

The DFLP said detainees included four of its local leaders, whom it identified as Yehia Obeid, Wa'el Khalaf, Taha Abu Alata and Azzam Al Hamalawi.

Palestinian authorities meanwhile released from jail Sunday three members of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, detained two weeks ago after the killing of a police officer, the group said.

Outside pressure, back-room deal in boycott slippage

By William C. Mann
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Talk of outside pressure and back-room deal-making rippled through the Middle East Saturday to explain further loosening of the Arab League's economic boycott of Israel.

To many Arabs, the deals bear "made in USA" labels and could prove a major step towards dismantling the League's 42-year-old special bureau for boycotting Israel. Saudi Arabia announced Friday in the United States that the six nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) had officially abandoned the boycott's requirement to avoid dealing with companies doing business with Israel. The Saudi announcement in New York said the six would maintain the taboo on commerce with the Jewish state itself.

In practice, the decision changes little. The Saudis and their GCC colleagues — Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar — increasingly have ignored the so-called "secondary boycott" rules.

But in international politics, putting it on paper is altogether different from doing it without talking about it. Foreign Minister Faris Bouez of Lebanon noted the announcement by Prince Saud Al Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister, came as his country and neighboring Syria are trying to negotiate peace in U.S.-sponsored talks with Israel.

"We believe the decision to lift the boycott won't help the Arab, Lebanese and Syrian negotiators," Mr. Bouez told the Beirut newspaper Al Nahar. "I don't know the reasons behind this step, but we'd expected more solidarity from the Arabs at this critical stage."

"There must have been pressure exercised on the GCC states to take the decision... at this speed and at this time in particular," economic analyst Ali Saleh said in Bahrain. But "with this political decision they are contributing to further rifts in the Arab ranks and weakening Arab negotiators."

The United States under President Clinton has pressed hard for eliminating or at least tempering the boycott, most recently by Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown in a Cairo visit this year.

He said he elicited a promise by Esnat Abdul Meguid, the Arab League secretary-general, that the League would consider abandoning the secondary boycott at a March meeting. The meeting produced no changes.

Arab governments began compiling a boycott list in 1946, two years before Israel became a state. The boycott office was established in Damascus six years later, aiming to so weaken the Israeli economy that the Jewish state would disappear.

By the late 1980s, with Israel in control since 1967 of vast areas of Arab soil including Syria's Golan Heights, demands for lifting the boycott had dwindled to removing Israeli settlements from the occupied territories.

"There are feverish attempts to lift the embargo despite the fact that a lot of (Arab-Israeli) issues are still unsettled," said Palestinian diplomat Mohammad Sobeh.

"We are hoping that the Arab side will not yield to pressures that might harm the Arab cause," Mr. Sobeh, permanent representative in the Arab League, said. "The issue of the Arab embargo should be handled within the Arab League and according to the progress in the peace process."

In Gaza, a top official of the Palestinian self-rule government agreed that the Arabs should show a unified front in dealing with the Israelis.

But Nahil Shaaath, the Palestinians' planning minister, indicated he does not expect occasional setbacks to do much harm.

After the weekly cabinet meeting, Dr. Shaaath said: "Obviously and eventually, we are going into a full peace with the Israelis, which will require... economic and political relations."

Saleh sworn in, says no YSP in new government

SANAA (AP) — Ali Abdullah Saleh, victor of Yemen's two-month civil war in summer, was sworn in Sunday as president and said he was excluding his socialist rivals from a new cabinet he will soon form.

Yemen's 301-seat parliament on Saturday elected Mr. Saleh, who heads the General People's Congress (GPC), for a five-year term. Of the 259 members who attended the session, 253 voted for Mr. Saleh, and six ballots were invalidated.

During the swearing-in ceremony on Sunday, Mr. Saleh said he was ordering a stop in a media campaign against Saudi Arabia, whose relations with Yemen soured during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis and worsened by Riyadh's support of Mr. Saleh's rivals.

He pledged to develop relations "with all countries, especially those of the Horn of Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf."

"We hope to turn the page and open a new chapter, especially with Saudi Arabia," he said. "We want to heal the wounds and distance ourselves from the effects of the past."

In his address, Mr. Saleh said that by ordering a halt in the war of words against the Saudis, he was affirming Yemen's "good intentions."

Mr. Saleh later told a news conference that his new government "will comprise the General People's Congress and Al-Islah party."

The tribal, Islamic fundamentalist Al Islah backed Mr. Saleh's northern forces who crushed southern secessionists in the civil war that ended July 7.

The Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) had been a key partner in the coalition that was formed after conservative North Yemen and socialist South Yemen merged in May 1990.

The Socialists' leader, Ali Salem Al Beidh, served as vice president to Mr. Saleh until the civil war broke out in May. Mr. Beidh then proclaimed the independence of South Yemen, and when Mr. Saleh's forces overran his southern strongholds almost three months ago he fled to neighboring Oman.

Mr. Saleh said he wanted to try Mr. Beidh and 15 of his top aides for treason and war crimes.

Socialists who remained in Yemen have since elected a new leadership, but they have yet to openly condemn Mr. Beidh.

Islah gained prominence in the April 1993 parliamentary elections, when it won 63 seats in the house to become the second-largest bloc after Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress. The socialists grabbed 56.

Parliament then elected an Islah leader, Abdullah Al Ahmar, as speaker of the house.

Mr. Saleh said he planned to introduce "new blood... experienced technocrats" into the new government, which will focus on reconstruction and post-war rehabilitation.

He pledged to encourage investment and improve the economic conditions in his country, which has a 14 million population and is among the poorest in the Arab World.

Mr. Saleh now has to name a vice president and a prime minister.

Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, deputy leader of Mr. Saleh's party, has been tipped as the most likely choice for vice president, and Farag Ben Ghanem, an independent, for prime minister.

Before the civil war, the prime minister was Heidar Al Attas, a socialist.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope still hopes to go to Lebanon

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (AP) — Pope John Paul II on Saturday told a Lebanese diplomat he still hopes to go to Lebanon, after an attack on a church forced the scrapping of plans for a trip last spring. "I keep the hope of being able to make this trip as soon as possible," the Pope told the Lebanese ambassador who presented his credentials to the Holy See in a ceremony at Castel Gandolfo, the papal retreat in the hills southeast of Rome. "It is my desire to demonstrate my esteem and my solidarity to all the religious communities which make up the Lebanese people," the Pope said. Security problems also forced the Vatican to call off another trip this year, a one-day trip to Sarajevo that had been arranged for Sept. 8, and difficulties in walking following his surgery to replace a bone broken in a fall in April caused the Vatican to postpone a trip set for late October to the United States.

Egyptian-French military games in 1995

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt and France are to carry out joint military manoeuvres for the first time in 1995, Egypt's Defence Minister General Mohammad Hussain Tantawi said Saturday. The annual Egyptian-U.S. "Bright Star" manoeuvres would take place in November, Gen. Tantawi told the governmental daily Al Ahrar. Elsewhere Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak watched military manoeuvres by the Egyptian navy Saturday to mark the 21st anniversary of the army's triumph crossing of the Suez Canal in the 1973 Middle East war. Mr. Mubarak said on Egyptian television that it was necessary to "maintain the capacity of the armed forces, especially since we are in the middle of a region which has, both in the East and in the West, many problems."

Protestors demand Vanunu release

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli protestors held a sit-in outside the home of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Saturday to call for the immediate release of nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu, who is serving an 18-year prison sentence. Some 30 demonstrators, who describe themselves as the Vanunu defence committee, accused Israeli authorities of "hounding" him. They also called for "nuclear, chemical and biological disarmament in the Middle East." Mr. Vanunu was found guilty of "espionage and high treason" in 1986 for passing on secrets of Israel's nuclear capacity to the British weekly Sunday Times. He claimed a woman lured him from London to Rome, where he was snatched by Israeli secret service agents in October 1986, before he reappeared in an Israeli prison.

35 dead in latest Turkish-Kurdish clashes

DIYARBAKIR (AP) — Turkish troops killed a total of 27 Kurdish guerrillas in a series of clashes in eastern and southeastern Turkey on Saturday, the Anatolia news agency reported. Eight soldiers were killed, it said. The guerrillas belong to the illegal Kurdistan Labour Party, which has been waging a violent campaign for autonomy in Kurdish regions. Nearly 13,000 people have died in the violence since 1984.

Mouse sows panic among postal workers

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A mouse sowed panic at a postal sorting office here after escaping from a parcel sent from India, where 54 people have died in a plague epidemic, the Kuwait daily Al Qabas said Sunday. Health and communications ministry officials were mobilised after postal workers failed to find the fleeing rodent. The sorting office was fumigated by health officials, who also distributed antibiotics to the staff. Like other Gulf Arab states, Kuwait closed its borders to all air and sea traffic with India last week.

Mixed classes banned in south Yemeni schools

ADEN (AFP) — Mixed classes have been banned in high schools in south Yemen under government orders, schools said Saturday as they reopened for the first time as part of moves aimed at increasing Islamic influence in the south.

Until now, southern Yemeni schools have been run on a secular system established by the former socialist regime before the South merged with conservative North Yemen in 1990.

Yemen's Deputy Education Minister Ali Al Warith has recently announced a series of reforms to standardise education throughout the country. Mixed education is banned in the north.

But female pupils returning to school Saturday ignored another of his reforms — the wearing of Islamic dress.

One schoolgirl, Nadia Abdullah, said the measure was "an attack on individual liberty." She added: "While we are careful to respect our religion, we object to the wearing of the Islamic headscarf being imposed on us."

School curriculums in south Yemen have also been brought into line with the north and will now contain more subjects related to religion, according to the new reforms published recently in an Aden newspaper.

Despite unification in 1990 several sectors remained separate in the north and south, including currencies and the armed forces, as well as education.

The new measures come after the defeat of southern Yemeni forces by northern troops loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh in a civil war from May to July.

The south's defeat weakened the southern Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) and strengthened the Muslim fundamentalist Al Islah Party, a member of the ruling coalition.

Last week Yemen's parliament voted to adopt a new constitution based on Islamic sharia law under pressure from Al Islah, which is seeking to extend Islamic influence in Yemen especially in the south.

'Rebuild Lebanon' exhibition opens

BEIRUT (AFP) — More than 200 companies from Western and Arab countries are to take part this week in "Rebuild Lebanon," the country's largest post-war reconstruction fair.

The five-day fair opens on Tuesday, two weeks after the government officially launched a multi-million-dollar project to rebuild the war-battered city centre of Beirut.

Britain, France, Italy, Switzerland and Greece will have national pavilions, according to Virginia Kern, managing director of the London-based Fairs and Exhibitions Ltd. which is organising the fair.

Out of the 25 Arab and Western countries taking part, several will also be represented by private companies, including from Australia, Germany, Hong Kong and the six Gulf Arab states, she said.

The five-day show will be open to professionals only and is expected to attract 2,000 to 3,000 visitors each day from inside and outside Lebanon, including the neighbouring countries of Cyprus, Jordan and Syria.

"Exhibitors have high hopes of entering into new business arrangements in Lebanon, finding local representatives or renewing past acquaintances," sales director Gloria Giles said. "The business opportunities for local companies are tremendous and this exhibition represents an excellent way to meet potential principals and partners," Ms. Giles said.

She said that her company spent "over \$1 million to prepare the basic infrastructure and promote the show."

"Normally there are purpose-built facilities for holding such shows but in Lebanon we had to start from scratch," she explained.

Fairs and Exhibitions commissioned a German company, Roder AG, to build a 400,000 square metres of cleared land in Beirut's northern seaford suburb of Dbayeh.

relection of President Saleh who "repeatedly states his commitment to respect the freedom of the press."

Mr. Saqqaf has come up against authorities in the past for his criticisms of government policy, notably during the May-July Yemeni civil war.

Mr. Saleh was reelected as head of state with a five-year mandate on Saturday by the Yemeni parliament.

Another editor warned last month that "press freedom is in danger" after his independent daily Al Ayam, published in the southern Yemeni city of Aden, was suspended after the end of the war.

Two other Aden newspapers — Al Tajammu, mouthpiece of the Yemeni Unionist Rally Party, and Al Wehdawi of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation — have also been suspended since the war.

Legislation embodying the freedom of the press was enacted in May 1990, when former North and South Yemen were merged.

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Fairs and Exhibitions commissioned a German company, Roder AG, to build a 400,000 square metres of cleared land in Beirut's northern seaford suburb of Dbayeh.

It includes exhibition halls, a business centre, a congress theatre and a 3,000-space car park.

"Rebuild Lebanon represents my company's most challenging project to date," said Ms. Giles, whose firm has gained an international reputation and organises the Dubai air shows.

"We had a better start-up response for this project than we have had for any of our other projects," she added.

Exhibitors will display the latest products in the fields of construction, energy, water treatment, communications, transport, health and municipal services.

"We had been watching Lebanon carefully for a number of years to see when the time was right to hold such an exhibition. The companies which will participate in this show think the time is right," she said.

Seminars and workshops will also be held during the show. Britain's Electrical Installation Equipment Manufacturers' Association is planning a technical seminar on latest developments.

Business and investment opportunities in Lebanon will be discussed by Arab politicians and economists during a two-day conference organised by the Arab business magazine, Al Iktissad Wa Amal.

The cabinet, which this week submitted to parliament a \$3.2-billion budget for 1995 with a projected 42.75 per cent deficit, has outlined a \$12-billion programme to revamp Lebanon by the year 2000.

The programme has yet to be approved but the government has already embarked on several rehabilitation programmes, mainly to improve the power, water and telephone networks.

Private construction is also booming across Lebanon, where according to official estimates 12,151 building permits were issued in 1993, compared to 2,859 at the end of the 1975-1990 civil war.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 "Allo! Au Pays Des Merveilles" Un Pour Tous
18:00 "Embarquement Pour Numero 1" Los 52 Compagnons
19:00 "News in French" News in French
19:30 "Emergency" Emergency
20:00 "News in Arabic" News in Arabic
21:00 "Coach" Coach
21:30 "News in English" News in English
22:20 "J.F.K. — Rockless Youth"

PRAYER TIMES

04:00 Fajr
05:25 (Sunrise) Duha
11:25 Noon
14:40 'Asr
17:25 Maghreb
18:42 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifditch, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Ascension Tel. 637440
De la Salette Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622266
Church of the Ascension Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771251
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771251
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 632526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Little Day School Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Relative hot weather conditions will prevail with winds variable occasionally becoming northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp.
Amman 16 / 32
Aqaba 24 / 36
Deserts 15 / 34
Jordan Valley 22 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 35 Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Yahya Abdul Salam 736072
Dr. Fakhri Tayeh 885880
Dr. Ahmad Khamis 747684
Dr. Salman Duboubi 776751
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asama pharmacy 637055
Naijrouh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636750
Yasoub pharmacy 640445
Shmickani pharmacy 637660
Naijrouh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IBRD:
Dr. Ali Shoaqiri 246140
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein 985000
Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage

Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussain Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 6442816

Akshel Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmickani 6641714
Shmickani Hospital 669131
Al-Musader Hospital 845845
University Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7711013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7711126
Army, Marika 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)905040
Don Sina Hospital (09)985732
Al Hikmah Modern Hospital (09)909090

IBRD:
Shmickani Basma Hospital (09)275555
Great Catholic Hospital (09)272775
Don Al Nefees Hospital (09)247100

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg

Apple	700 / 500
Banana	600 / 400
Banana (Muskatmar)	620 / 420
Cabbage	110 / 50
Carrot	260 / 160
Cauliflower	250 / 150
Cucumbers (large)	120 / 80
Cucumbers (small)	270 / 170
Eggplant	100 / 600
Garlic	200 / 100
Grapes	550 / 350
Grapes (Hivani)	900 / 600
Guava	500 / 300
Lemon	300 / 200
Marrow (large)	150 / 80
Marrow (small)	180 / 100
Mulukhiyah	340 / 200
Onion (dry)	340 / 200
Sweet Melon	340 / 200
Pepper (hot)	270 / 150
Pepper (sweet)	300 / 200
Potato	340 / 200
Pomegranate	340 / 200
Spinach	260 / 160
Tomato	190 / 100
String beans	200 / 100
Watermelon	200 / 100

هذا من الجول



Malaysia's First Lady, Dr. Siti Hasmah, Mrs. Abdul Salam Majali and other Malaysian and Jordanian guests Sunday experience the encouraging style of YWMA workshop director Marwan Akrabawi as he admires the work of a youth (Petra photo)

First lady of Malaysia visits NHF

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dato en Darin Paduka Dr. Siti Hasmah bte Haji Mohd Ali, wife of Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Ben Mohammad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, Sunday visited the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) accompanied by Mrs. Abdul Salam Majali, wife of the Jordanian Prime Minister, and several guests.

NHF's Theatre-in-education Programme director Lina Tal briefed the guests on NHF's development philosophy and strategies which focus on family and community development, women, children, promotion of culture and heritage and advancement of education.

The visiting group then attended a documentary film on the NHF's Projects and Programmes carried out across Jordan and toured NHF's Jordan Design and Trade Centre (JDTC) which includes special selections of woolen rugs, embroidered home furnishings, ceramics, glassware, basketry, fashionable clothing, wrought iron furniture, personal accessories and Islamic calligraphy items — all designed and produced by more than 3,000 Jordanian crafts men and women.

Dr. Siti Hasmah praised Her Majesty Queen Noor's efforts in establishing and enhancing a long-term integrated development scheme and in integrating women in the development process and expressed her admiration of NHF's projects and programmes especially those which focus on childhood.

She expressed as well her wish to launch a cooperation plan with the NHF in exchanging experiences and offered NHF a cash donation and a gift.

Upon arrival the visiting group was received by Noor Izzeddin, a member of the NHF's Board of Trustees, Abdullah Al Hindawi, Deputy Director General and senior NHF staff.

Visits to CPF, workshops

Later Dr. Siti Hasmah visited the Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF), toured its various sections, and made a donation to the foundation. The Malaysian first lady also visited the workshops of the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) Centre for the Mentally-Handicapped, where she was briefed by Workshop Director Marwan Akrabawi on the courses offered.

Pakistani parliament speaker ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Pakistani Parliament Yusef Raza Gilani Sunday left Amman at the end of a four-day visit to Jordan, during which he held talks with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and senior Jordanian officials in bilateral relations and developments of the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Gilani was also received in a special audience Thursday by His Majesty King Hussein.

Prior to his departure, Mr. Gilani and the accompanying parliamentary delegation visited King Abdullah Mosque in Amman where they were received by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abadi and the ministry's secretary general, Ahmad Helayeh.

The Pakistani guests viewed a display of photographs depicting the third Hashemite restoration of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem and an exhibition on the restoration of the tombs of Prophet Mohammad's Companions.

Dr. Abadi briefed the delegation the phases of the restoration of holy sites.

Japan donates equipment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Japan today donated JD 288,000 worth of audiovisual educational equipment to the University of Jordan.

At a presentation ceremony held at the Educational Technology Centre of the University of Jordan, the Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Yuji Ikeda handed over the new equipment to University President Fawzi Gharaibeh.

The equipment will be used to enhance the capabilities of the Educational Technology Centre in producing television programmes and educational materials and providing training on both a national and regional basis in cooperation with Tatsuhiro Yanagine and Mari Sato, members of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers working in Jordan.

Japan's contributions to the University of Jordan to date have included audiovisual equipment for the Educational Technology Centre in 1983, books related to Japan studies for the university library in 1987 and 1988, books related to Japan studies,

Jordan, Malaysia look forward to enhanced relations in several arenas

AMMAN (J.T.) — The governments of Jordan and Malaysia Sunday issued a joint communiqué at a press conference held by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and his Malaysian counterpart, Mahathir Mohammad. Following is the full text of the communiqué, read out at the press conference by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh.



Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf (right) and Malaysian Minister for International Trade Rafida Aziz Sunday sign a trade agreement (Petra photo)

At the invitation of Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, the Prime Minister of Jordan, His Excellency Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Ben Mohammad, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, arrived at the head of a large delegation of senior officials and businessmen for an official visit to Jordan lasting from 29 September to October 3, 1994.

During the visit, Jordan's honourable guest was received by His Majesty King Hussein, and the two leaders reviewed the strengthening relations between the two countries and the latest developments in the peace process. Afterwards, His Majesty the King awarded his guest the Al-Nahda Medal — First Class. H.E. Dr. Mahathir praised world stature and his continuing efforts in both the domestic and international arenas.

During the discussions on regional and international issues, both sides agreed to coordinate their positions on issues of common concern.

The Malaysian side expressed its support for the Jordanian position in the peace process and urged for full implementation by Israel of all international resolutions and bilateral agreements to ensure the attainment of a comprehensive,

just and lasting peace where the rights of all parties are respected and preserved.

The Jordanian and Malaysian sides held several meetings, ending their discussions this morning, Sunday October 2. The discussions covered all topics of interest and areas of cooperation between the two countries, including tourism, Islamic affairs, education, shipping and civil aviation.

The visit culminated in the signing of four bilateral agreements as follows:

- An agreement for economic, technological, scientific and cultural cooperation.
- An agreement to avoid

dual taxation.

- A trade agreement.
- Investment protection agreement.

The two countries also signed a memorandum of understanding concerning cooperation in tourism.

The two sides also discussed practical ways of implementing these agreements by means of various protocols to be finalised at a later stage, especially relating to the exchange of administrative expertise and towards the supply of Malaysian needs for man power in the medical, engineering and educational fields. Businessmen from

both sides also met repeatedly to explore areas and ways of mutual cooperation with the objective of expanding trade and the establishment of joint projects, especially those to establish a joint business council and signed an agreement to achieve that objective.

An agreement was also signed between a Malaysian and a Jordanian company for the export of Jordanian pharmaceuticals.

It was also agreed to establish friendship societies for both countries, and to study the establishment of resident embassies in each others' capitals.

The visit of the Malaysian delegation was successful and productive, providing an opportunity for both sides to exchange views over matters of mutual interest, and both sides look forward to a practical implementation of the agreements reached between the two friendly countries.

His Excellency the Prime Minister of Malaysia thanked the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for its warm hospitality and expressed his admiration for the historical and cultural sites of Jordan and the Kingdom's comprehensive development.

Firm wins contract to study dam construction

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Sunday awarded a local engineering firm JD 85,000 a contract to conduct hydrological studies and prepare final designs for the construction of a dam at Wadi Ibn Hamad district in Karak Governorate.

A statement issued after the signing of the contract at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation said that the firm will have to complete its work in 10 months.

Under the terms of the contract the company will conduct investigations and tests at the site to determine the exact location for the foundation of a 30-metre-high dam which will have a storage capacity of 1.4 million cubic metres (mcm).

It said that the dam will have winter rainfall and flood waters which will be used for irrigation.

Last month Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat said the ministry was studying the construction of three other dams at Waleh (9 million cubic metres), Mujib (35 mcm), and Tannour (12 mcm) as well as raising the walls of the Kafrein Dam in the Jordan Valley to augment its storage capacity to 4.5 mcm.

Referring to Al Karameh Dam which is currently under construction, the minister said that it would have a 55 mcm capacity.

Morocco, Jordan to sign trade pact

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Moroccan Economic Committee Sunday met for the second day, resuming talks to increase trade between the two countries.

The committee intends to sign a final trade agreement today. The goal is to establish free trade between the two countries, which is "fairly insignificant," said Fathallah Sijilnassi, director for International Affairs at the Moroccan Ministry for Trade, Industry and Foreign Trade.

Mr. Sijilnassi said Moroccan trade volume with Jordan totalled a meagre \$6 million in 1993.

Morocco's exports to Jordan consist mainly of processed fish, clothing and general textiles. Morocco, he said, hopes to increase volume in these areas as well as diversify its exports.

Commerce between the two countries has been hindered by trade barriers, and limited privatisation in both countries. The agreement will be within the framework of GATT, of which Morocco is a member. Jordan has recently applied for GATT membership.

Additionally, the agreement seeks to liberalise trade between the countries, and create the means for increased trade and investment.

Jordan is in a good position to become a significant trade partner of Morocco because of its number of increasingly privatised industries. Mr. Sijilnassi said, "Trade has been insignificant because of a lack of information and links between businessmen." Mr. Sijilnassi pointed out, "Most contacts have been between governments. Liberalisation leaves things up to businessmen."

He also said that expanding trade with Jordan was significant because of the Kingdom's increasing importance in the region.

Edris Hatto, Morocco's trade minister, will meet with his Jordanian counterpart Rima Khalaf for final discussions and the signing of the agreement today.

Mr. Hatto will also discuss Jordan's role in the coming Casablanca summit scheduled for the end of October.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

FILM

French film entitled "La Grande Illusion" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

CONCERT

Concert by the National Musical Institute at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

Oriental pieces exhibition at Gallery Mariam (Tel. 824425).

Ceramics exhibition by Hameed Abdul Majeed at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Two exhibitions of abstract art by Ramzi Al Sayid and Mohammad Salim at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Photography exhibition at the University of Jordan.

Fourth Amman International Book Exhibition at the International Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 650601).

Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Wadhah Al Ward at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, Wasfi Tal Street (Tel. 695291).

Exhibition of paintings by Dia Azzawi at Ah'ad Art Gallery (Tel. 862105).

Exhibition of paintings by Kamal Boullata entitled "Duets, Quartets, and a Triangle" at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

Exhibition by artist Nadim Muhsin at the French Cultural Centre.

"The Diness Exhibit" — beginnings of photography in Jerusalem and the Holy Land at the American Center exhibition hall, Abdoun.

Azzawi's somber 'war diaries' hang between his polished gems

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Many consider Dia Azzawi, 48, to be Iraq's finest contemporary artist, bar none, and very few artgoers would deny him a place among the cream of that country's countless superb painters, who have made Baghdad the crown jewel of the Arab art world.

With this in mind, those going to see Azzawi's exhibition at the Al Ah'ad Art Gallery will leave with mixed emotions. His multimedia works are magical and mesmerising, and the central exhibition piece, the Al Jawahiri folio, which consists of 10 lithographs, is a tour-de-force of the first order.

But the numerous acrylics and charcoals on display, which form at least half of the exhibits, are a disappointment. Some of them are polished enough, but otherwise unremarkable. A few even verge on the amateurish.

By far, what makes the exhibition an artistic event of the first magnitude, despite the large number of knock-off works, is the Al Jawahiri folio, which blends Azzawi's visions as a painter with verses selected from the writings of Al Jawahiri, the famous Iraqi poet.

The lithographs are lyrical and gripping, and demonstrate that Azzawi at his best possesses a dynamic expressiveness so powerful that it no doubt leaves many of his peers in Baghdad green with envy.

Another series of mixed-media works in similar style, half abstract and half graffiti-like, chiefly "Nuzhat Zaman" and "The Book of Love," carry on superbly.

Azzawi will never be remembered for technical excellence or innovation, one suspects — his technique is often crude and rough. The singular power of his works lies elsewhere.

For somehow, through colour, shape and texture, he has been able to endow these otherwise ungainly mixed-media works with an other-worldly spirit, so piercing and so baffling at the same time, that one suspects Azzawi is lucky to be a modern painter. One can easily see him being hailed off and accused of witchcraft if he had lived in medieval times, as happened once with the poet and scholar Omar Khayyam.

That said, the breath of this great artist has somehow failed to transfer to his acrylic and charcoal works on the walls of Al Ah'ad. The eight charcoals, entitled "war diaries," all portray a somber, weeping

face in abstract black-and-white.

For those in Jordan who know all too well the bloodshed Iraq has endured throughout the last two decades, the work's theme and purpose is poignant.

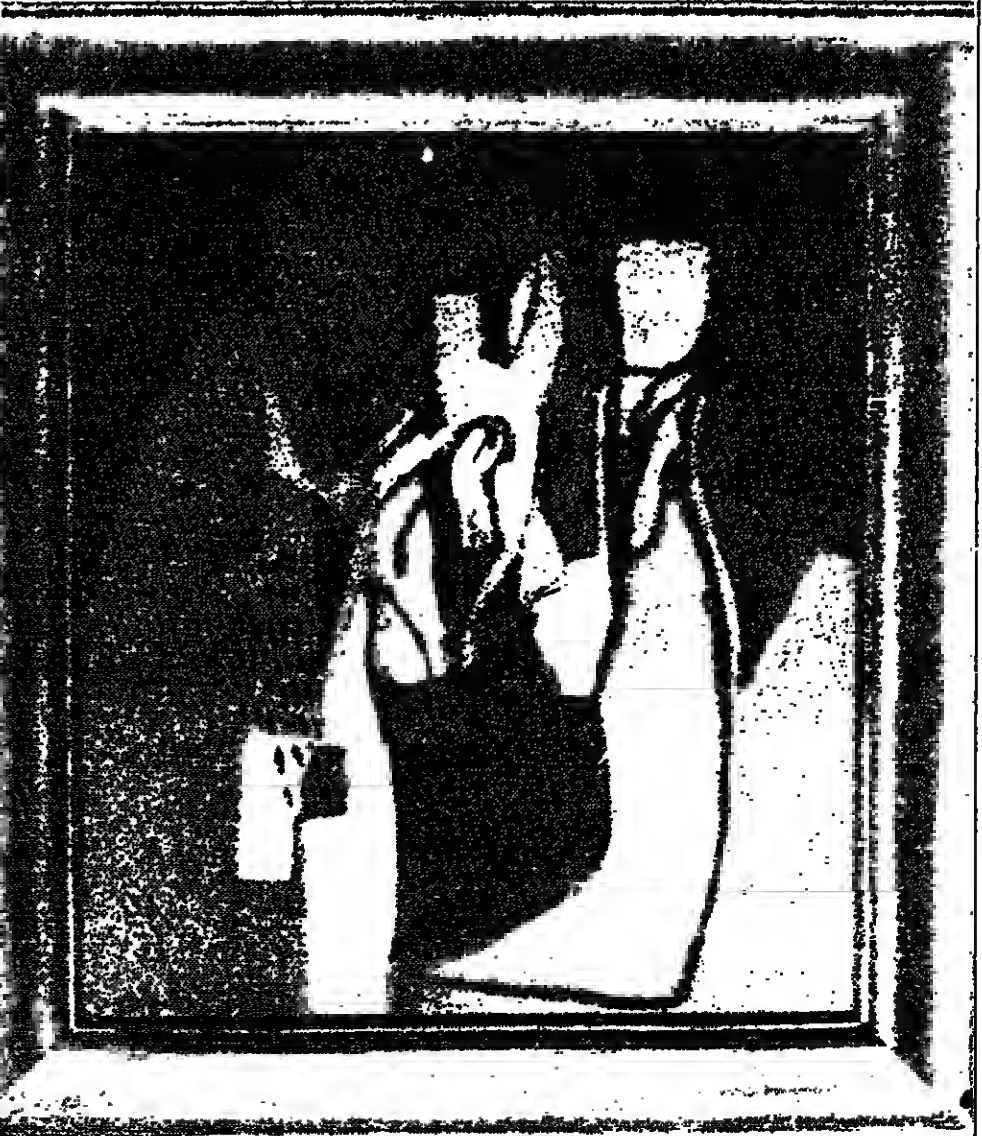
But the renderings are clumsy, and in the end, Azzawi's handling of the theme comes across as no more than cliché.

The acrylics on the opposite wall are un-unique and uninspiring, both in terms of theme and technique. As good as Azzawi shows himself to be in the Jawahiri folio and other above-mentioned works, one wonders how he ever came up with such paintings in between.

If Azzawi had been a still-unknown artist, the display would have shown him to be a reasonably competent artist on the whole, with possible potential for future greatness.

But Azzawi is no unknown — he is a proven master, and the overall uneven quality of the work he has brought to Amman detracts from the gems he has placed among them. One leaves wishing to see a much more comprehensive and fully-realised display.

The exhibition, which opened on September 27, will continue until October 10.



Dia Azzawi's 'Marrakesh Zone', acrylic on canvas

India confident plague controlled, but cases mount

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — India is sounding confident it has controlled an outbreak of plague that sent tremors of dread around the world, but the number of suspected cases continued to mount and three new possible deaths were reported Sunday.

One person died in Surat — the west coast industrial city where the outbreak started on Sept. 19 — after entering hospital with suspected plague symptoms.

"It's not certain whether he died from plague," said Jagdish Shelat, junior health minister of Gujarat state.

Mr. Shelat said the man may have died from tuberculosis and the body had been sent for a post mortem examination to determine whether he was India's officially reported 52nd plague victim.

If he was, he would be the first plague death in Surat, where 47 people have died, in more than four days.

A 10-year-old girl died in Bombay, but initial tests were negative for plague, said Dr. Padmini Shetty at the Plague Control Room of India's commercial capital where no one has so far died of the scourge.

And a 55-year-old man died in Delhi — where two deaths Saturday are still awaiting the end of testing to determine whether they died of plague — and again senior health officials said he might have died of something else.

On Sunday, India reported 3,474 suspected cases of plague, up by nearly one-third from the previous day's figure. However, so far only 204 have proved to be plague victims, the Delhi Plague Control Room said.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) said Sunday the rapid rise in numbers of suspected cases was no surprise or cause for alarm and that the next two days would prove if the Indian government was right to believe the plague was dying.

"This spurt was to be expected," WHO spokesman Jitendra Tuli in Delhi told Reuters. "We believe the full picture will be clear by Tuesday."

He said the basic signs were that the outbreak was tapering off and government confidence would be justified "unless some cases show up in entirely unexpected areas. That would then really mean a long haul ahead."

The government believes the many countries taking stringent measures to quarantine India have seriously overreacted.

It stressed the comparatively small number of positive tests and that the plague is easily cured by common anti-biotics.

But there was no sign that the outside world, fearful of the plague spreading across the globe like wildfire, was about to ease curbs on travellers and goods from India.

New Zealand and West Indian cricketers, due to play in India this month, made anxious comments and an Indonesian dance troupe cancelled a scheduled tour of India.

The Maldives became the latest nation to suspend flights from India. India's major problem in the outbreak of plague was the panic-ridden rush of 300,000 people from Surat. Most of the deaths were in the first days.

They spread the disease to six other of India's 26 states in a stampede Cabinet Secretary Surendra Singh said could not be stopped "without brutality." He was,

however, sure "a lid" would soon be put on the plague. "Everybody knows about it and if the victim doesn't go to hospital, his relatives or neighbours will probably make sure they do," said Mr. Singh.

In Bangladesh, about 50 people have been hospitalised with suspected plague, but none of them has tested positive for the disease, newspapers reported Sunday.

The first two plague suspects surfaced Thursday after the passengers came from Dubai on board a Bangladesh jetliner that had landed in Bombay, newspapers reported quoting Health Ministry official Shamsuddin Siddiqui.

Two passengers returning from the plague-ravaged Indian city of Surat also have been quarantined, the reports said. The other people were admitted to hospitals with a fever or sore throat, symptoms of pneumonic plague. Details of the cases were not immediately available.

Bangladesh has suspended all flights to India of its national airline and sealed land routes along the border. Thousands of people move illegally across both the na-



A shoe shine man wears a face mask while tending to a customer in New Delhi. Residents suspected of plague cases have surfaced (AFP photo)

tions to work in farms and factories.

The government Saturday decided to operate a train from Calcutta to evacuate thousands of Bangladesh students stranded there.

Pakistan's first suspected plague victim arrived aboard a special train from India bringing home 332 Pakistanis who had been stranded since the potentially deadly disease

broke out two weeks ago, health officials said Sunday.

A team of doctors met the train that arrived from New Delhi late Saturday at the Pakistani border town of Wagah.

An eight-year-old boy was hospitalised with flu-like symptoms and is being tested for the plague, said Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad, a Health Ministry official.

"He had a high fever and symptoms of some sort of respiratory disorder," said Dr. Ahmad. "We won't know anything for another 24 hours."

Pakistan cancelled all regular travel links with India after plague erupted in Surat, but Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto put on a special train to ferry stranded Pakistanis home from India.

Balladur plays for high stakes in corruption scam

PARIS (AFP) — French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur vowed to fight corruption to the end over the weekend but the political price could be high and the conservative leader stands to lose three of his ministers.

The wave of scandals washing over his government could also damage Mr. Balladur's chances in next year's presidential elections and favour his rival, Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac.

Speaking on television Saturday night, Mr. Balladur said corruption cases would be investigated "with rigor and strict respect for the law." He added: "No one can cite a single case where the functioning of justice has been prevented by my government."

The first of his ministers in the firing line is Industry Minister Gerard Longuet, who paid a bargain basement price for a second home he had built in the French Riviera resort of Saint-Tropez.

But Defence Minister Francois Leotard and Enterprise and Economic Development Minister Alain Madelin

may also have to quit over the alleged illegal financing of the conservative Republican Party (PR), of which Mr. Longuet is president.

That would bring the total number of ministers forced to quit to four, following the July resignation of Communication Minister Alain Carignon, who was subsequently charged with fraud over illegal financing of his political activities in the Alpine capital of Grenoble, where he is mayor.

On Saturday, Mr. Balladur reaffirmed his "very severe rule" that once a minister had been charged, he must resign even though presumed innocent until found guilty.

He had earlier come under fire for an apparent cover-up by prolonging a preliminary probe into Mr. Longuet's affairs for a month until Oct. 31, rather than allowing the minister to be indicted immediately.

Mr. Balladur said he took "full responsibility" for the extension, adding it had been granted to allow Mr. Longuet to prove his good faith.

Mr. Longuet was accused in a leaked report by anti-

corruption magistrate Renaud Van Ruynebeke of having bought the Saint Tropez villa in a corrupt deal.

The affair is damaging to Mr. Balladur's strategy for the presidential elections next April and May. Mr. Longuet has rallied the PR, a major formation in the governing conservative coalition, behind Mr. Balladur in the battle to succeed Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, and analysts said its loyalty could now falter.

Mr. Van Ruynebeke had questioned the origin of the funds Mr. Longuet used to pay for the Saint-Tropez villa. It cost him 2,529,444 francs (about \$505,888), but was worth at least 4.2 million francs, the magistrate said, alleging that the cash was paid to two of Mr. Longuet's consultants by property developers COGEDIM and water company Compagnie Generale des Eaux.

In the affair of the PR's finances, the same magistrate alleges that "suitcases full of cash" of dubious origin were handed to the party between 1987 and 1991, totalling 28 million francs (\$5.6 million).

And that Mr. Longuet, Mr. Leotard and Mr. Mandelin were all aware of the traffic. Mr. Van Ruynebeke is also probing how the PR allegedly paid a 1.2 million commission in return for acquisition of part of its Paris headquarters.

Meanwhile among the Gaullists, Youth and Sports Minister Michele Alliot-Marie faces investigation for receiving cash from the medical consultancy Medicor for allegedly fictitious services rendered.

And a total of seven industrialists and businessmen said to be close to the Gaullist Rally For the Republic (RPR) have been indicted with fake invoicing that helped to finance the RPR.

Maverick right-winger Philippe De Villiers, who recently walked out of the PR, called Saturday for new anti-corruption laws in an open letter to Mr. Balladur.

Mr. De Villiers said the Socialists were chased out of power in March 1993 because of corruption and "what led to the downfall of the left could lead to that of the right."

which swept him to power and triggered the Slovakian separatist drive that culminated in the break-up of the old Czechoslovakia and formation of Slovakia on Jan. 1, 1993.

Political analysts were Sunday putting forward two possible scenarios for Tuesday, when President Michael Kovac is to open consultations on forming a new government.

They said the HZDS could form a nationalist-slanted coalition with the support of Jan Sloba's National Slovak Party and the breakaway communist Slovak Workers Movement of Jan Luptak. The latter stole votes from the SDL, coming in sixth with 7.34 per cent of the vote, while the former only just managed to win representation in parliament with 5.4 per cent, putting it in seventh place.

Alternatively, the HZDS could team up with its former enemies in the coalition which has governed the country since Mr. Meciar was ousted last March after falling out with Mr. Kovac, a

Meciar wins Slovakian elections

BRATISLAVA (AFP) — Former Slovakian Premier Vladimir Meciar was Sunday declared the winner of Slovakia's general elections with a much bigger majority than expected, putting him in a position of strength in forming the next government.

Final results Sunday gave Mr. Meciar's Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) 34.96 per cent of the vote, far ahead of its nearest rival, Peter Weiss's Democratic Left and its partners in the Common Choice alliance, which scraped only 10.41 per cent.

Three parties representing the Hungarian minority did unexpectedly well, finishing third with 10.18 per cent of votes. Only seven of the 18 groupings which fought the elections crossed the five per cent threshold to win seats in parliament.

Mr. Meciar's showing confounded opinion pollsters, the most optimistic of whom had only credited him with 27 per cent of voting intentions. His score was within a couple of points of his performance in the 1992 elections

former HZDS leader. They are the SDL, the centrist Democratic Union (DU) of outgoing Prime Minister Jozef Moravcik and the Christian Democrats (KDH) of Jan Carnogursky, which finished fourth and fifth with 10.08 and 8.57 per cent of the vote respectively.

On Saturday night Peter Weiss, whose SDL party was the big loser in the poll, called for the formation of such a coalition, saying that political generosity was needed to give the country a really stable government.

If such a coalition were formed — which is far from certain given Mr. Meciar's impetuous and sometimes unpredictable temperament, and his hunger for power — it would leave the three parties representing the Hungarian minority out in the cold.

None of the other parties fighting the elections had supported their aspirations for greater autonomy. The elections were the first since Slovakia and the Czech Republic went their separate ways.

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Russians rally to mark October rebellion

MOSCOW (AFP) — Some 3,000 tearful mourners and hardliners marched through central Moscow Sunday, retracing the route of a protest last year that set off two days of bloody violence ending in the shelling of parliament.

Nearly 100 of the marchers carried large portraits framed in black of youths who were killed last October when army troops backed by tanks violently quelled a revolt by supporter of the parliament

President Boris Yeltsin had dissolved.

Former Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, a key leader of the parliamentary rebellion, joined the march at a square outside the Foreign Ministry building where Chopin's Funeral March was played over loudspeakers.

"I bow to you heroes of the October fight and I bow to you, their mothers and fathers," Mr. Rutskoi told the crowd during a break in

the music. "I ask your forgiveness that I wasn't able to save your sons and daughters. I stayed with them until the end, but I couldn't do anything to save them."

Smolensk Square, where the Foreign Ministry is located, was the site of violent clashes on Oct. 2 and 3 last year that triggered the revolt.

There was a minute of silence after Mr. Rutskoi spoke, but a number of those in the crowd reacted angrily to the former vice-president's words.

"What right does he have to ask our forgiveness?" said an elderly man wearing a red Soviet flag and who wore a jacket bedecked with medals.

"He may have stayed until the end, but he's here alive and our sons are dead," the man said.

Another protester added: "He just wants to get back in power so he can shoot it out again with Yeltsin."

The protest appeared divided into two parts with some 2,000 people marching in a funeral-like procession at the head of the crowd followed by more than 1,000 hardline Communists carrying Soviet flags and anti-Yeltsin banners.

The march was scheduled to continue to the "White House," the building that housed the former Russian parliament and is now the seat of the government.

The funeral marchers carried a large black banner inscribed in white with the words: "No pardon for the executioner."

Many of those carrying portraits of the young victims of last year's violence were parents or relatives and were unanimously critical of the government's actions last year in quelling the revolt.

"Our kids had nothing to do with politics... they just shot our children," said one mother whose son, 17-year-old Roman Verevkin, was among those killed during the revolt.

According to official figures, some 140 people — most of them "defenders" of the banned parliament —

were killed in last year's violence, but Mr. Rutskoi and other opposition leaders claimed the number was closer to 500.

Police presence was relatively light but as the protest continued a handful of OMON riot police were spotted keeping an eye on the march.

The demonstrators met earlier under a towering statue of Lenin and many of them also bore placards with stridently anti-Jewish slogans written on them.

One sign bore a photograph of President Boris Yeltsin over the words: "Kick out this instrument of the Jewish international conspiracy" while another placard stated "Stop the intervention of international Jewry."

Another banner pictured Mr. Yeltsin sitting atop a tank firing on the former parliament building and stated: "This is the triumph of democracy."

A year ago Tuesday, four T-80 battle tanks positioned on a bridge over the Moskova River in central Moscow targeted their cannons on the facade of the parliament building and opened fire, shaking the city.

Even before the assault on the "White House" began that chilly, sunny morning, questions on who was shooting, why they were shooting and who they were shooting at were already being asked and many have yet to be answered.

"The October tragedy is still far from over," Alexander Volchok, political secretary for the conservative Russian National Union, said last week in a statement quoted by the English-language daily the Moscow Tribune.

"The war of the traitors against their own state, against their own economy, against their own people continues."

"The truth about the bloodletting of last year, so painstakingly hushed up by the authorities who were victorious over their own people, will still be told," Mr. Volchok said.

General: Pakistan is an 'atomic power'

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan is an atomic power and should announce the existence of its weapons as a deterrent to hostile countries, the former Pakistani army chief, General Aslam Beg, said Sunday.

"It is a fact that Pakistan is an atomic power and there is no reason why not to accept it," Gen. Beg said, quoted by the official Associated Press of Pakistan news agency.

The official position held by the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, while admitting that Pakistan had nuclear capacity, was that the country did not have any atomic weapons.

In May, Gen. Beg said that Pakistan had nuclear arms since 1987. Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said last month that Pakistan had a nuclear bomb, causing political turmoil and leading to a series of official denials.

Gen. Beg, who was speaking at a conference at the

University of Punjab, said that Pakistan should announce the existence of its atomic weaponry to pull the nation out of uncertainty and indecision.

He said Pakistan was in possession of a "minimum nuclear deterrent," adding that India would be unable to intimidate Pakistan as it had since New Delhi exploded its first nuclear device in 1974.

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Sri Lankan military halts offensive ahead of peace talks with rebels

COLOMBO (AFP) — Security forces called off a planned offensive against separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas in northern Sri Lanka in light of upcoming peace talks, Defence Secretary General Hamilton Wanasinghe said Sunday.

Troops suspended a major operation against the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in view of the talks between the new government and the guerrillas scheduled for Oct. 13 and 14,

Mr. Wanasinghe said. "This is because we want to create conditions conducive for peace talks. You can't be talking while war is going on," Mr. Wanasinghe told AFP. He did not give details of the planned offensive.

However, he said "defence oriented" small-scale operations would continue in the island's northern and eastern regions, where the LTTE has stepped up attacks, killing some 15 soldiers and an esti-

mated 25 sailors in the past two weeks.

Defence sources said the military was on the verge of tightening their stranglehold on the LTTE-dominated northern Jaffna peninsula when they were ordered to hold back.

"We were about to launch an attack when the orders came to suspend the operation. This is a clear signal that the government is very serious about the peace talks," the sources said.

China 'concocts' charges against dissidents

BEIJING (AFP) — The Chinese government is increasingly using false or frivolous criminal charges to arrest or convict political activists in a bid to discredit them at home and abroad, according to a human rights report released Monday.

Of the 12 known cases of human rights advocates and political dissidents formally charged or sentenced since the beginning of 1994, all have been charged with criminal offences rather than political crimes, said the report by the U.S.-based watchdog, Human Rights Watch/Asia.

The charges ranged from embezzlement to fraud to "hoiiganism," the report said, citing the example of 26-year-old Tong Yi — the assistant to leading dissident Wei Jingsheng — who was charged in August with forging a seal for a university document.

Similarly, Zhang Lin, a labour activist from Anhui, was charged with "hoiiganism" the same month and sentenced to three years in a re-education camp, while Bi Yimin — a former colleague of leading dissidents Wang Juntao and Chen Ziming — was charged with giving "public money" to the dissidents' families.

"The use of criminal instead of political charges against dissidents means, among other things, that the number of political prisoners and detainees is far higher than the roughly 3,000 men and women convicted of 'counterrevolution' that the Chinese government has acknowledged currently holding," the report said.

Another aspect of judicial abuse identified by the report was repeated denials by the authorities that they are actually detaining dissidents who are known to have been

seized by the police. Such denials have surrounded the detention of veteran activists Wei Jingsheng and Lin Nianchun, both of whom have been said to be under "residential surveillance" despite the fact that their families have no knowledge of their conditions or whereabouts.

On Saturday, Mr. Liu's wife accused the Chinese authorities of misleading the United Nations after the U.N. group dealing with "involuntary missing" individuals informed her that it had received notification from Beijing that Mr. Liu was under residential surveillance.

"I was not satisfied with the answer given to the United Nations by the Chinese government," Mr. Liu's wife said. "Since he was taken away (on May 26) I haven't heard from him and I don't know where he is now."

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Gays demand rights in new S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — One thousand gay activists demanded homosexual rights in South Africa's new constitution in their first post-apartheid parade Sunday.

"South Africa will have shown once more that the struggle can be won," spokesman David Houghland told the crowd gathered outside the Library garden, the centre of the capital.

Houghland, a British actor, described 1994 as a "year of celebration" for homosexuals, adding that though much had been achieved in 25 years of American homosexual militancy there was still much to be done. He cited the Pentagon's refusal to allow gay soldiers in the army while Israel gay men and lesbians served openly.

Houghland is a star of the film *And The Band Played On*, now being screened in South Africa, in which he plays a gay rights lobbyist in the early 1980s' under Reagan when the first AIDS cases were recorded. Gay and Lesbian Organisation spokesman Paul Stobbs said the new constitution in South Africa was the only one in the world which outlawed any discrimination against homosexuals.

"All prejudices should be eradicated," he told the crowd. Flower-laden floats, balloons, young men dressed as women or nuns, pink triangle symbols and the Rainbow flag predominated. One woman carried a placard saying: "My son is gay and I love him."

They are the SDL, the centrist Democratic Union (DU) of outgoing Prime Minister Jozef Moravcik and the Christian Democrats (KDH) of Jan Carnogursky, which finished fourth and fifth with 10.08 and 8.57 per cent of the vote respectively.

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Bosnian Serbs halt U.N. convoys in wake of accord

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serbs halted the first four U.N. convoys that tried to move through their territory Sunday despite an agreement only hours ago to lift a 10-day blockade and ensure their safe passage, U.N. officials said.

"We had applied for nine convoys and received permission for seven and the first four have been halted at Bosnian Serb checkpoints," Claire Grimes, a U.N. spokeswoman in Sarajevo told Reuters Sunday.

"The feeling is it's Sunday morning and the orders haven't gone down the line yet, so we're going to give it some more time," she said.

The United Nations and Bosnian Serbs reached agreement Saturday to allow resumption Sunday of U.N. logistics and humanitarian aid road convoys under Serb blockade since a NATO air strike 10 days ago.

The Bosnian Serbs also accepted talks on restarting a vital U.N. airlift to Sarajevo grounded by Serb gunfire.

Diplomats in Sarajevo said Sunday it was the growing isolation which forced Serb leaders into an accommodation with the United Nations and which could give peacekeepers the upper hand for the first time in 30 months of war.

"The Bosnian Serbs love to hate the U.N. but they struck two agreements Saturday that make the UNPROFOR (U.N. Protection Force in Bosnia) look good," said a diplomat in Sarajevo, who asked not to be named.

"Now the border is sealed, they need the U.N. more than ever for supplies and technical assistance. The U.N. is their only real link to the world. They can't afford to lose that."

The anti-U.N. blockade had posed a potential humanitarian emergency for Serb-encircled government enclaves with winter nearing and NATO hesitating to take tougher action against Serbs, U.N. officials were plainly relieved at the convoy pact.

"It's a very good step forward from the position we were in," said Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, commander of U.N. troops who guard government enclaves in Bosnia.

The separatist Serbs neutralised U.N. operations in the 70 per cent Bosnia they held in fury at NATO jets' destruction of a Serb tank flouting Sarajevo's U.N.-mandated security zone and a stiffening of U.N. sanctions against them.

With the U.N. mission in possible jeopardy, Gen. Rose and civilian aides coaxed the Bosnian Serb political leadership into two rounds of negotiations that lasted more than a day and produced two agreements Saturday.

The first was a U.N.-brokered deal between Serbs and the Muslim-led Bosnian government to swap hundreds of war prisoners which provided momentum for the second, more important pact.

"Approval has been given for the reopening of land routes for U.N. logistics convoys... commencing Oct. 2," a joint U.N.-Serb communiqué said in the first of four points.

Secondly, "approval has been given for the (simultaneous) resumption of activities by international humanitarian organisations for the distribution of humanitarian aid through land corridors."

The communiqué also said warring factions were prepared to guarantee utility supplies needed by civilians "on a reciprocal basis" in the Sarajevo region and other war zones of Bosnia.

Finally, it said, "mutual readiness has been expressed

to renew communications links in order to attain an agreed resolution of all possible incidents so as to avoid a deterioration of (Serb) relations with UNPROFOR."

No one could be sure the convoy agreement would be honoured as it was not signed by the Bosnian Serb military. Their troops have disregarded some political deals in the past.

The Serbs and the U.N. Protection Force also agreed to start talks on reopening U.N.-controlled Sarajevo Airport for U.N. humanitarian aid flights.

Momcilo Krajisnik, speaker of the Serbs' self-styled parliament, warned that these talks would be trickier.

"We told General Rose there are serious problems in the use of the airport," Mr. Krajisnik told the Bosnian Serbs News Agency (SRNA), accusing Muslims of using it to attack Serbs.

He did not elaborate. His cabinet told Reuters Sunday the date for the talks had not yet been set but "could take place Monday at Sarajevo Airport."

The 27-month-old airlift to Sarajevo's 380,000 people, the longest recorded to a war-isolated region, was shelved after Serbs nging the city threatened to shoot down the planes.

NATO jet targeted

A NATO jet was targeted by a missile while flying over northern Bosnia (this weekend) but managed to escape unharmed, NATO's Southern Command said here Sunday.

The pilot of the French Mirage 2000 was on a patrol run over the area Saturday along with another Mirage when he saw the missile but was unable to identify the type, Captain John Mitchell, spokesman for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in Naples, said.

Capt. Mitchell, who was unable to specify who was behind the incident and whether more than one missile was fired, said an investigation was underway.

The two aircraft involved in the incident are part of a squadron of 17 French Mirage 2000 planes used by NATO as part of its mission to enforce a no-fly zone over Bosnia.

Last month, two British fighter planes were also targeted by missiles over northwest Bosnia and were unharmed.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said lifting the arms embargo in Bosnia would be a "suicidal decision" that could enlarge the conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

"Nobody in practical terms would ever contemplate lifting (the arms) embargo as a means of bringing peace to Bosnia," Mr. Kozyrev said in a CNN television interview.

"This is just a suicidal decision... because it is lifting all the restraints of the war," Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic earlier in the week backed away from his longstanding demand for an immediate lifting of the embargo in Bosnia-Herzegovina and asked the U.N. Security Council to pass a resolution lifting it in six months.

Mr. Kozyrev, who was in New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly, said any lifting of the embargo would be "a desperate gesture to bring outright war to the area."

President Bill Clinton and others have called for lifting the embargo to allow the Muslim-led Bosnian government to defend itself against the Bosnian Serbs, who have seized 70 per cent of the Balkan state.

Defeated Rwandan Hutus seek share of government

GOMA, Zaire (Agencies) — Leaders of Rwandan Hutu refugees camped around this Zairean border town have told the U.N. they want a power-sharing deal with the victorious Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) government before they return home.

Two plane loads of Japanese troops flew into Goma Sunday to provide relief assistance for Rwandan refugees — a landmark mission for a nation which, for nearly five decades after its defeat in World War II, barred its armed forces from all services abroad.

U.N. officials meanwhile stepped up efforts to regain control of a refugee camp from lawless members of the Hutu militia who were blamed for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Tutsi earlier this year.

Discussion of a mass return to Rwanda took place Saturday between a delegation of refugees led by the head of the army of the former ousted Rwandan government, Major-General Augustin Bizimungu, and representatives of aid agencies, the U.N. and Zairean government officers.

The Rwandans said the refugees were prepared to return home if their demand for

a power-sharing deal was agreed.

Nigerian Brigadier-General Henry Aniyidoho, deputy commander of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda, told Reuters Saturday.

"The refugee leaders said they wanted some kind of say in government. We have talked about these issues over and over. They didn't come out with a clear sign that they were willing to compromise."

U.N. officials said that while Gen. Bizimungu's group gave other conditions for a return, their main concern was for political integration.

Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu, a Hutu moderate chosen by the Tutsi-dominated RPF after its civil war victory, spoke strongly in Kigali Saturday about the need for reconciliation.

But he said nothing about sharing power with former government leaders, whom he blames for the massacres that followed the April 6 death of President Juvenal Habyarimana as he returned from a peace summit.

The U.N.-led group held more talks Sunday with other refugees in the nearby town of Bukavu.

A spokesman said they ex-

amined living conditions of the refugees and looked for ways in which they could be helped to accept repatriation.

The delegation was also discussing the possibility of using U.N. troops to move the ex-soldiers to a new site, further away from other Rwandan refugees.

Lyndall Sachs, spokeswoman for the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR, said that all aid agencies had resolved not to return to the Katala refugee camp north of Goma until they received guarantees on the security of their workers.

Some 270,000 people live in Katala camp. Ninety international aid workers abandoned it Friday after receiving threats.

U.N. officials were meeting refugee leaders north of Goma Sunday to seek clear proposals on security guarantees, Ms. Sachs said.

"We told the refugee leaders in clear terms that we would not go back unless they guaranteed security. We don't like to do it because vulnerable groups like women, children, elderly and the sick are hurt, but it has to be done," she added.

Katala is one of a series of camps set up to house nearly a million refugees who



The leader of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (left) and Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu (right) at the military rally commemorating the 4th anniversary of the Tutsi rebellion against the regime of General Paul Kagame (AFP photo)

crossed from northwest Rwanda in July.

They are under the sway of former officials of the ousted Rwandan government and 28,000 soldiers and militia members who also fled to Zaire. The troops and militia-men are blamed for the massacre of an estimated million people between April and July.

U.N. officials say they have repeatedly asked Zairean authorities to disarm the Rwandan soldiers and isolate them, but Zairean army officers say they do not have enough men to tackle the task.

Meanwhile the general who led Rwanda's Tutsi rebels to victory in the civil war appealed to them Saturday not to seek revenge against Hutus blamed for ethnic massacres.

Maj. Gen. Kagame, vice president in the new Tutsi-installed government, criticised "foreigners who come to preach division," a reference to allegations by some relief officials that rebels have carried out widespread reprisal killings.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Saturday conceded intimidation by Hutu extremists — not re-

prisals by government troops — is the main reason more than 2 million Rwandan refugees are not returning home from camps in neighbouring countries.

"Ninety per cent of the problem is related to the presence of ex-government soldiers in the camps," said UNHCR spokeswoman Marjane Aalam.

The agency in the past week claimed Gen. Kagame's troops were engaged in systematic killing and persecution of Hutu returnees, charges the government denies.

Gen. Kagame, addressing soldiers and supporters at celebrations in Kigali marking the fourth anniversary of the rebels' first attack in northeast Rwanda, said Rwandan soldiers were duty-bound to prevent further ethnic bloodshed in their central African nation.

"We must take sure, genocide never happens again," said Gen. Kagame, to wild cheers from some 30,000 people who packed a sports stadium in Kigali's decimated western suburb of Nyamirambo.

About 2,000 rebel soldiers sang victory songs ahead of performances by dance troupes and a soccer match.

Mr. Bizimungu also urged supporters Saturday to maintain peace and security.

"Everyone has the right to life... there must be absolute respect for human rights. If that does not happen, all our efforts will have been in vain," he said.

Mr. Bizimungu said the government will convene a special commission to draw up an accurate tally of the number of people who died in the ethnic slaughter and organise the burial of massacre victims scattered across the countryside.

Numerous massacre sites have been discovered since April, with many thousands of decomposed corpses left unburied as killers fled the rebel advance along with refugees.

The government has been angered by reports of fresh killings released by the UNHCR that it says are unsubstantiated. It has admitted arresting 60 to 70 of its soldiers for vengeance crimes but says reprisals are isolated cases.

In an apparent damage control effort, the UNHCR has invited a top level government delegation to a meeting of its officials in Geneva, beginning Monday.



A Rwandan refugee argues with other refugees at a Red Cross food distribution centre in Kibumba camp, near Goma (AFP photo)

Helicopters attack Chechenya village

MOSCOW (R) — Russian news agencies said Sunday that five helicopters attacked a village in the rebel region of Chechenya, killing one person and wounding several others.

In reports from Chechenya's capital Grozny, ITAR-TASS and Interfax agencies said the helicopters with no identification marks struck the Kalinovskiy village north of the breakaway republic.

They had no details on the type of helicopters used in the raid. The reports could not be independently confirmed. Moscow telephone operators said lines to Grozny were cut.

Interfax quoted aides of Chechen President Dzhokar Dudayev as alleging the helicopters belonged to the Russian army in the north Caucasus. A Defence Ministry spokesman in Moscow denied Russian forces were involved in the conflict, Interfax said.

Moscow makes no secret of its desire to see Mr. Dudayev's downfall and a swift end to the tiny north Caucasus republic's fragile independence declared by the Chechen leader after the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

Russia has strong commercial interest in Chechenya, a vital oil refining centre. It has openly backed the opposition of several armed groups fighting to topple Mr. Dudayev but it denies it is involved militarily.

In another incident, journalists of the Chechen-Press News Agency in Grozny contacted by telephone from

Moscow reported another attack by two helicopters on a military airfield in Shcholkovsky region about 80 kilometres east of the capital.

They said an airport mechanic was wounded in the Sunday attack. The helicopter had no identification marks.

The latest reports followed an air raid Friday on Grozny Airport buildings when two helicopters damaged the control tower and two civilian planes and slightly wounded several people.

Opposition leaders claimed responsibility for the raid. News reports from the region said Mr. Dudayev blamed the attack on the Kremlin at an emergency meeting of his general staff Saturday.

A government spokesman said measures were drawn up for stiff resistance.

Russia has accused Mr. Dudayev of shedding the blood of his own people and vowed it will do everything possible to protect them.

Mr. Dudayev, a former air force general, regards himself as heir to the Chechens who resisted Moscow's rule in a 19th century conflict that bogged down Russian troops in the region. He still enjoys the support of a well-armed and organised army.

Russian media reports from Chechenya are sketchy and differ widely in details. Their sympathies, just like those of the Kremlin, seem to lie with the opposition. Recent TASS reports claiming fighting and heavy casualties in central Grozny have later proved unfounded.

Robots bring back first images of Estonia wreck

TURKU, Finland (AFP) — Finnish experts investigating the wreckage of the Estonia managed to film the front of the vessel where a faulty bow door is suspected of having caused the disaster, one of the experts said Sunday.

"Unfortunately, we can't give any comment on what we see before the investigation committee has seen the video," said Tuomo Karpinen, who was reached by telephone on board the Halli, off the coast of Finland.

"We are going to make a very thorough investigation," he said. Images taken by an unmanned submarine provided a "very high quality picture" of the stricken ship which capsized last week killing 910 of the passengers on board.

Mr. Karpinen said a commission of enquiry would meet in coming days to study the video images but he would not comment on whether that would be enough to determine the cause of the incident.

He added that no bodies were seen by robot cameras which went all around the wreckage now lying at a depth of around 75 metres (250 feet).

"We haven't decided yet whether to go inside the wreck," he said.

Mr. Karpinen was part of a team that left the tiny port of Nauvo in southwest Finland at dawn on board the Halli, arriving at the site 100 kilometres (60 miles) offshore just before midday, and sending two unmanned submarines into the Baltic depths.

The first images of the Estonia were received on board the Halli at 12:50 a.m. (1050 GMT), said Mr. Karpinen who was reached by telephone.

The robots took around 15 minutes to reach the sunken ferry before sending back video pictures screened directly aboard the Halli.

The Halli has two remote-controlled submarines fitted with cameras which are to transmit live pictures of the wreck back to investigators.

Both submarines are equipped with floodlights to penetrate the underwater gloom, but visibility was still expected to be no more than three metres (10 feet), forcing the robots to work almost right up against the wreck, Finnish officials said.

The wind in the area fell to around 36 kilometres (21 miles) an hour early Sunday after reaching 90 kilometres



Estonian sportsman Aun Alar Johanson is one of the 139 survivors of the accident (AFP photo) after he escaped from the Estonia ferry crash.

and coastguard officials said the conditions should be calm enough to permit good filming.

But weather conditions were expected to be bad Monday with high winds affecting search operations.

Finnish officials were meanwhile refusing to rely too much on the accounts of survivors, several of whom reported seeing the Estonia go down without its bow door. That had given credence to theories that the vessel had set sail in an unseaworthy condition.

Kari Lehtola said it was "possible" part of the ferry had been "missing," but stressed it was "too early" for further comment.

He said that any conclusions drawn from the film of the wreck would not be announced until they had first been passed on to the three-nation enquiry into the tragedy.

Mr. Karpinen, said he thought it would be "possible to find the cause without raising the wreck, because divers can go down there and take some small parts of the wreck to analyze them." But he added the complete investigation could "easily take one or two years."

Swedes gathered in churches across the country Sunday to mourn and honour the victims of the Estonia ferry disaster.

Churches across the country held special masses Sunday as mourners congregated in sorrow over the 552 Swedes who were on board the ferry that night.

Attendances were high, according to a spokesman of

At Norrköping, 160 kilometres southwest of Stockholm, inhabitants packed the Hedvig Church to mourn 52 of its residents who perished in the wreck.

A sea of candles burned inside the church and at the altar. Family members and loved ones, overcome with emotion, stepped up to the altar one after the other, to read and pay tribute to the 52 retired people who left Norrköping for Estonia and never returned.

In Tallinn, grief-struck Estonians packed churches Sunday to remember their friends and relatives who drowned earlier this week in Europe's worst shipping disaster since World War II.

At the medieval Saint Mary's Cathedral in Tallinn's old quarter, the congregation sat in stunned silence among flickering candles as an organist and cellist played Bach's haunting "Aria."

A heavy man in a brown leather jacket held his face in his hands. A gaunt, elderly man ran his long pale fingers nervously over a black hymn book. A young woman fought to hold back the tears, staring fixedly at the pulpit.

Several people trying to sing hymns were unable, their faces of silent grief cracking into open tears.

"It's tragic and we think about it constantly," said the organist, 34-year-old Kadri Ploompuu who sailed on the Estonia ferry two weeks before it sank during a storm in the Baltic Sea Wednesday.

Close to 900 of the 1,049 passengers drowned, including nearly all of the 188 Estonian crew and 163 Estonian

regular Tallinn to Stockholm voyage on the modern, 15,000-tonne ferry.

For Estonia, a country of just 1.5 million people, the scale of the losses were magnified, with most people knowing or knowing of someone who died.

Ms. Ploompuu said her travelling companion from two weeks ago had taken the doomed ferry back to Stockholm and was believed to have drowned. "It's terrible, shocking," she said.

Outside the central Kaarli Church a 59-year-old woman who asked not to be named said she had come to pray for the victims, who included her 53-year-old cousin.

"Our families were very close. He was on a business trip. It was a terrible blow," she said, squinting her red-streaked eyes against the rain.

"I'm so sad. I just want to pray to God that He saves him," she said.

Then, reflecting the added agony caused by incomplete survivors' lists, she added "maybe he's alive, maybe he'll be found" and went into the church crying.

The original passenger list was apparently incomplete and the fact that hundreds of bodies are entombed under 80 metres (262 feet) of water means the victims can only be identified through deduction. Only a fraction of the bodies have been recovered.

Germans warned against dominance impression

BREMEN, Germany (R) — President Roman Herzog warned Germany to avoid creating the impression of dominating Europe as the country marked the fourth anniversary of unification with street fairs and parades Sunday.

"Whenever I travel abroad or I receive foreign visitors here, I sense Germany's increased responsibility," Mr. Herzog told German television.

"The danger this entails, and which I to some extent feel is desired by Eastern European states, is the impression that we want a position of dominance in Europe."

"We must not allow that to happen, under any circum-

on a third path, a special path for Germany."

Germany Saturday began three days of festivities to mark the fourth anniversary of German unification with politicians lamenting that the peoples of east and west had not grown together in the years of togetherness.

Parliament President Rita Suessmuth said east and west Germans, reunited on Oct. 3, 1990 after four decades of cold war division, still had not developed a sense of solidarity.

"In terms of reciprocal esteem, we still have a huge amount to do," Ms. Suessmuth told German radio.

The festivities for German Unity Day, which falls on

and Berlin Saturday with street fairs offering wine, beer and food from the 16 federal states.

On Sunday, some 2,200 representatives from the states paraded in traditional costume in the capital Berlin while Bremen hosted the German Classics International Indoor Riding Championships.

The celebrations are being overshadowed by a general election in two weeks, in which many easterners, weary of high unemployment and impatient for the economic spoils of unification promised by Chancellor Helmut Kohl, may choose to back reform Communists.

Westerners, for their part, taxes needed to fund the modernisation of former East Germany.

Police in Bremen Saturday raided the offices of a group calling itself the "Bremen Alliance Against Celebrations On The Day Of German Unity," and said they found a large quantity of spray guns and loudspeakers.

Demonstrations by groups opposed to unification, which had been called for Monday in Bremen where the official celebrations take place, have been banned.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said that as Germans came to terms with the problems brought by unity, they should not forget the human

Crown Prince meets Peres

(Continued from page 1)

Jordanian," Dr. Majali said (see separate story). In an interview on Saturday, Dr. Majali said Jordan had not reached agreement with Israel on any of the key issues in their peace talks. "Until now there is no issue that we have reached

agreement on... as you know the common agenda has a number of varied subjects being discussed on their own," he said. "None of the issues (in the agenda) have reached their final conclusion," Dr. Majali said when asked if Jordan and Israel would sign a peace treaty soon.

Israeli response acceptable

(Continued from page 1)

may be." Israel's resistance to Jordan's demands for a fair share of the waters of the River Jordan and Yarmouk is another major obstacle in the quest for a peace agreement. Dr. Majali was not asked about the issue during the press conference.

Israel is known to be standing firm on its position that water-sharing could be discussed in the context of making available new resources and is stalling on any discussions on allocating the available waters.

In response to a question on reports that Israel was proposing to lease Jordanian land under its control where Israelis have developed agriculture, Dr. Majali said the most important thing was to normalise the borders and then discuss various options.

"Once we establish these (border) lines and then if they want to discuss any other matters of rectification here or there, we are not going to be that hard; we are going to listen to them," he said.

The prime minister disclosed that Israel had "accepted and admitted" that Jordan had sovereignty over a plot near the convergence of the Rivers Jordan and Yarmouk "though the ownership is not Jordanian."

Dr. Majali was referring to a plot of land which belonged

to the Jewish-owned Palestine Electricity Company dating back to the late 1930s. The plot was sold at the time to the power company, Rotenberg, whose production facilities in the area were bombed out during the 1948 war.

Jordan, anxious not to set precedents that could be cited by Israel to its own advantage, has left the site untouched.

The Israeli recognition of Jordanian sovereignty over the land, Dr. Majali said, is a "big step," given the Jewish state's track record with Egypt after signing the Camp David agreements and its insistence on keeping the Taba coastal resort that belonged to Egypt. (The issue was taken to the International Court of Justice, which ruled in favour of Egypt after several years to Israeli-Egyptian wrangling).

"The main thing is to build confidence and acceptance between the two sides and try to reason as much as we can in the arguments so that we could reach solutions," Dr. Majali told the press conference.

Reports in the Israeli press have said that the Jewish state was offering to lease parts of the land in the south where Israelis have developed agricultural farms or to give Jordan alternative land equal in size to the plots that the Israelis say they want to keep.

Yeltsin has good reason to be pleased with summit

By David Ijunggren
Reuter

WASHINGTON — With political turmoil brewing back home, Russian President Boris Yeltsin has good reason to be happy with the just-ended summit in Washington.

"We have to be satisfied with all the major items during the visit," Russian Foreign Ministry Press Chief Grigoriy Karasin said after Mr. Yeltsin wrapped up two days of talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

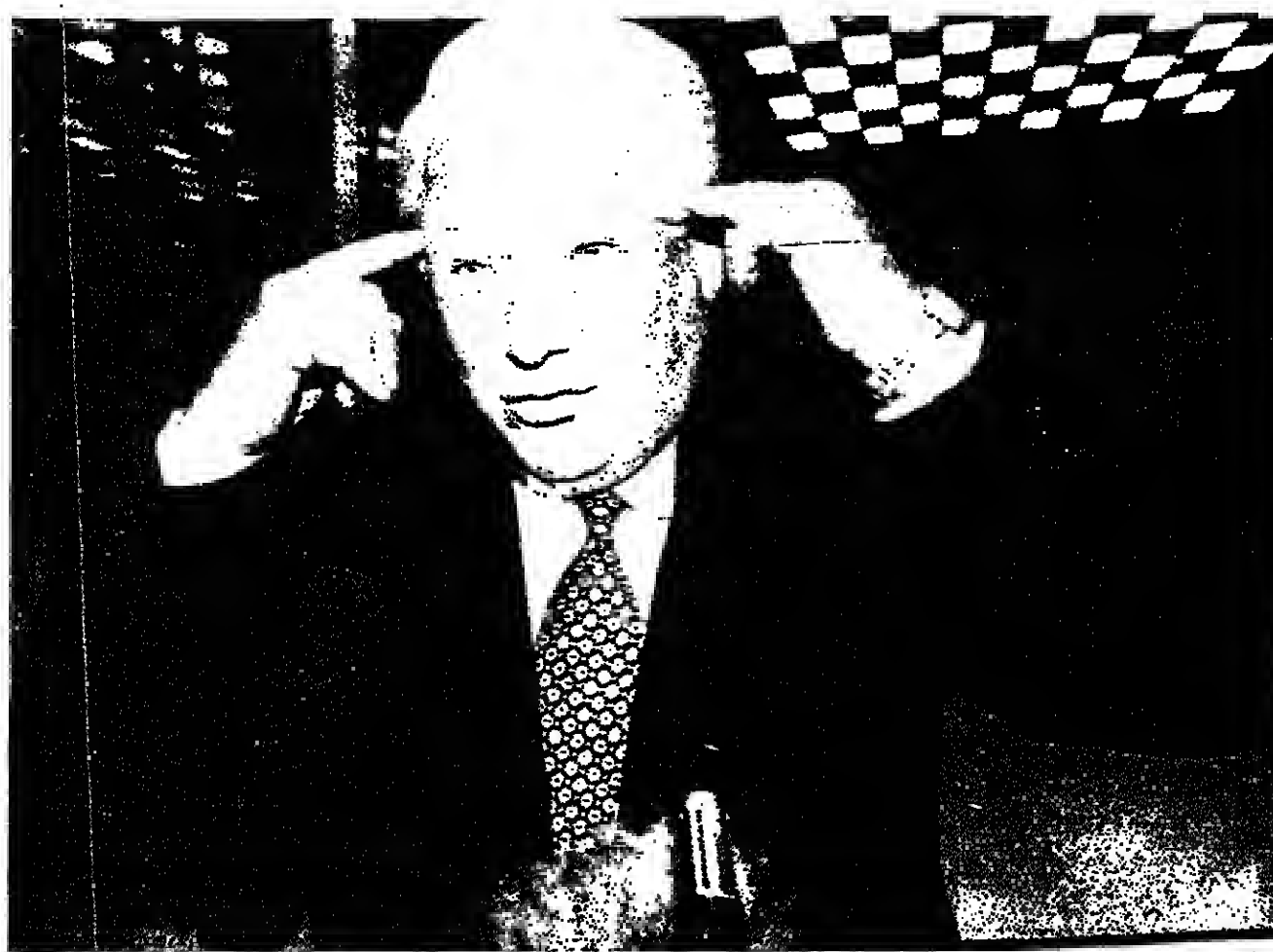
"The number of important issues discussed was unprecedented, as was the level of understanding," he said.

The main significance for Mr. Yeltsin after his meetings with the man he calls "Bill" could well be that U.S.-Russian relations are now so good they can be put on autopilot.

That would suit Mr. Yeltsin perfectly: Political tensions at home, dormant for much of this year, are flaring up yet again. His press spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, told Izvestia newspaper on Thursday Mr. Yeltsin's advisers were battling for influence ahead of Russia's 1996 presidential elections. He said democracy in Russia could be at stake.

Izvestia suggested senior Yeltsin aide Viktor Ilyushin was pressing for more influence and possibly putting the job of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin at risk.

Mr. Yeltsin firmly backed Mr. Chernomyrdin on Wednesday, telling Russian reporters: "As long as I am the president, Chernomyrdin will remain head of the



Russian President Boris Yeltsin gestures while talking to the press after arriving in Moscow from the U.S. on Friday. Mr. Yeltsin said he was exhausted after the flight from the

U.S. and his security people did not wake him up during a stopover in Ireland (AFP photo)

Russian government."

With the prospect of further upheavals at home, Mr. Yeltsin at least knows he does not have to worry about serious problems in ties with Washington for the time being.

Another Yeltsin spokesman, Anatoly Krasikov, said the Clinton meetings reflected the new more flexible nature of relations, light years away from the

tense rigid superpower

summits of the cold war.

"In those days the visits were prepared beforehand to the last full stop and the two leaders were only figureheads," he said. "They... signed (documents) not even knowing what they were signing."

"Now it is the leaders who do the most important work themselves. In the olden days they sat on

opposite sides of a river.

Now they are partners."

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Clinton have for the time being agreed to quietly disagree on several topics including Russian arms sales to Iran and policy on Bosnia.

"What family does not have arguments which cannot be solved later?" Mr. Yeltsin told a White House

news conference.

Mr. Krasikov added: "A lot of questions remained but they are practical ones. The strategy has been determined but the sides have to work out the tactics."

Mr. Yeltsin flew to the United States determined to press for an end to trade restrictions on Russian goods and to persuade the reluctant U.S. business

community it was time to turn on the investment taps. It was widespread unhappiness about the crumbling Russian economy that fuelled much of the nation's political unrest last year, which ended in October when Mr. Yeltsin sent tanks in against a rebellious parliament.

Business deals worth £1 billion were signed during this visit, but of more importance to Mr. Yeltsin was the agreement he signed with Mr. Clinton to lift trade curbs and start building a normal trade relationship between the two giant countries.

Mr. Yeltsin's cosy relationship with Mr. Clinton did not stop him from making gentle approaches to the Democratic president's Republican rivals during the Washington visit, however.

Mr. Yeltsin, experienced at political infighting and more interested in official state relations than in personal ones, knows Mr. Clinton is in deep political trouble at home and might not be around after 1996 presidential elections.

Accordingly, at an official dinner for Mr. Clinton at the new Russian embassy Wednesday evening there were a number of leading Republicans on the guest list.

They included former U.S. secretary of state James Baker, who is considering whether to run for the Republican presidential nomination in 1996.

Also present was retired general Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who has not yet declared a party affiliation but whom many Republicans would like to see on their 1996 ticket.

Mahathir says visit fruitful

(Continued from page 1)

deal of scope, for trade between the two countries, the question is identifying what are the needs of Jordan and what are the things that Malaysia can (import) from Jordan."

Dr. Mahathir said he did not discuss the issue of the short presence in Jordan two months ago of the leader of the outlawed Al Arqam sect of Malaysia, Mohammad Asaari.

Mr. Asaari happened to be in Jordan when his group was banned in Malaysia. He flew to Thailand shortly afterwards. He was arrested there and deported to Malaysia where he remains in prison.

"We don't think we should take this up with the Jordanian government," Dr. Mahathir said. "This is an open country, they come here, they study here and they are free to leave the country. It so happened that they came here."

The Al Arqam group, Dr.

Mahathir said, "is a group of people who venerate their leader to the extent that this man, Asaari, has something of a prophet and his followers place him at par with the Prophet and also with God."

"He is supposed to have the attributes of God and that is against the teachings of Islam," the prime minister said. "His followers are quite firm in their belief in his ability, for example, to meet and talk with the Prophet."

"It is quiet difficult to accept this; it is about time we stopped this kind of silly teachings because the government has a duty to see that the teachings of Islam are propagated," he said.

Dr. Mahathir rejected reports that his government had cracked down on the Al Arqam group for political reasons. "What we are doing is not because we are afraid of (Mr. Asaari) as a politician or he is about to topple the government. That he can do, if he wants, through contesting the elections."

Israel hails Tunisia accord

(Continued from page 1)

tion to the previous day's announcement in New York by the Israeli U.N. mission. Tunisian officials refused to comment or to confirm reports of a series of secret meetings between representatives of the two countries in Tunis and European countries.

Also Saturday, Mr. Peres met separately with Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassem Ben Jabr Al Thani and thanked him for his leadership role in the decision by the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council on the economic boycott of the Jewish state.

"This is a positive step in the right direction," Mr.

Peres said after the meeting. Morocco and Israel announced on Sept. 1 they would open liaison offices, the most direct ties established between the Jewish state and an Arab country since Egypt made peace in 1979.

Tunisia was home for more than a decade to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat before he moved to the Gaza Strip to take charge of Palestinian self-rule.

Israel's air force bombed PLO headquarters in Tunis in 1985. In a raid in Tunis three years later, Israeli commandos assassinated Khalil Al Wazir, a top leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

League rejects GCC decision

(Continued from page 1)

merce. Foreign firms shunned Israel from its foundation, fearing being put on an Arab League "blacklist" and banned from doing business in the Arab World.

The director-general of Israel's manufacturers' association, Yoram Blizovsky, said optimism that international groups would now open factories in Israel.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said the move was "an important stage in an irreversible process which will boost our exports and our economic relations with neighbouring countries."

Syria's Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa has

criticised the decision and said in New York that it "was not timely and does not serve the Arab negotiators' interests."

Mr. Sharaa said the boycott was not raised at a league foreign ministers meeting held in New York. Libya's government issued a statement condemning the Gulf countries softening of the boycott.

The Libyan news agency JANA quoted the statement Sunday as saying the full boycott of Israel should continue "as long as the Zionist enemy exists and its aggression continues with its occupation of Palestine and the Arab territories of the Golan and South Lebanon."

Guerrilla 'mini-army' wins Israeli respect

By Andrew Tarnowski
Reuter

TYRE, Lebanon — The last Arab-Israeli frontline is almost forgotten these days as Israel and the Arabs talk peace, but the fighting still rumbles on in South Lebanon — and Israeli troops are not having it all their own way.

Shiite Muslim guerrillas have developed into a grudgingly admired foe for the Israelis after tightening their security, acquiring missiles and honing their tactics, according to experienced observers in the south.

Israeli troops no longer dismiss the Islamic resistance led by the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (the Party of God) as "terrorists" and speak of them with new respect as a "mini-army."

Independent sources believe there are 300-400 hardcore professional fighters who can call on Hizbollah to boost their forces up to 3,000 men in a few hours.

But guerrilla field commanders may be operationally independent of Hizbollah's Beirut bosses, the sources say.

This may spell trouble for any Israeli-Lebanese peace deal because no one knows how the commanders might

react to orders from Beirut to stop their attacks.

"The Islamic resistance has a life of its own, definitely," a source said. "One gets the impression that these guys might do their own thinking about what matters."

Equipped with wire-guided sagger anti-tank missiles, small groups of fighters regularly infiltrate behind the lines in Israel's 13-km wide border buffer zone and wait in ambush for days to hit patrols with long-range missile attacks.

The Israelis find it hard to hit back when they come under missile, machinegun and mortar fire from billy ridges two-to-three km away, sources say.

Guerrilla support units pound nearby Israeli strong points with mortars to stop them sending reinforcements as the attackers slip away.

"It seems like they have got the range pre-fixed on all the Israeli positions," an observer said. "They can hit them any time they want with mortars."

Guerrillas sometimes send video films to Beirut television showing sagger homing in on Israeli vehicles and exploding as troops scatter with mortar bombs hurled around them.

"They've been running

circles round the Israelis in the eastern sector especially," said an observer. "They are always getting behind them."

"It does make Israeli life very difficult. They are having problems coping with this sort of attack."

This year the guerrillas have killed 14 Israeli soldiers, including nine in sagger attacks, and wounded dozens.

Other figures better reflect the intensity of the war. In August the two sides fired more than 3,000 artillery shells. Israeli planes have hit the guerrillas 28 times this year.

Doubts and desertions are also weakening the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia which helps Israel's 1,000 troops control the buffer zone, a source said.

"The SLA have stopped patrolling. They just man checkpoints because they think peace is round the corner."

Israeli soldiers admit the guerrillas are getting tougher. "They are not the same terrorists as before. They are determined and resourceful," a soldier of the Givati Infantry Brigade told Ron Ben-Yishai, a commentator for Israel's lead-

ing newspaper Yedioth Achronon.

Mr. Ben-Yishai also quoted the commander of an Israeli position saying: "Hizbollah today is a mini-army... they are no longer suicide attackers."

"They attack from long range and avoid close encounters. If we meet on the ground they fight like snakes... That's why their casualties are low."

Beirut politicians are confident Hizbollah will stop fighting once Israel pledges to leave the south. Hizbollah has already moved into conventional politics with the election of eight deputies to the Beirut parliament in 1992.

But U.S. and Israeli officials distrust the guerrillas and doubt the Lebanese army can meet Israeli demands to establish security and prevent cross-border guerrilla attacks.

The source says the resistance appeared to become autonomous from Hizbollah's political wing in 1992 after Hizbollah's chief Abbas Musawi died in an Israeli helicopter attack.

"It was mainly for security reasons because after the Musawi killing Hizbollah had big fears that they had been penetrated very badly by the Israelis."

Buthelezi fighting for political survival

By Rich Mkhondo
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — When Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi burst into a studio and scuffled with a Zulu prince on live television, the cameras zoomed in on a man fighting for survival as champion of South Africa's Zulu nation.

Mr. Buthelezi is now in dispute with eminent Zulus, adding to his simmering differences with the African National Congress (ANC), which leads the government formed after the country's first democratic election in April.

"Chief Buthelezi is fighting for his political survival," said Wim Booysse, a political analyst for the Northern Transvaal Chamber of Industries.

"This could be devastating for the fragile peace we have had since the democratic government was installed," Mr. Booysse said.

Mr. Buthelezi, who is home affairs minister in the new government and head of the Inkatha Freedom

party, said he went to the Durban studios of state-run South African Broadcasting Corporation during the prime-time agenda programme on Sunday to demonstrate with Prince Sifiso Zulu.

The prince had angered Mr. Buthelezi by saying he was no longer a principal adviser to Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini. A gun was seized during the studio fracas and Mr. Buthelezi has accused the prince of trying to shoot him.

The debacle showed the power struggle within the Zulu royal house was deepening and Mr. Buthelezi was growing isolated as the king drifted towards President Nelson Mandela's ANC.

"Buthelezi is concerned about his power-base which the ANC had begun to erode," said University of Western Cape lecturer Siphiso Maseko.

"There is a growing rift within the Zulu nation. The other problem is that King Goodwill looks very fragile."

Mr. Maseko said the king was easily influenced by self-appointed groups of advisers, of which Prince Zulu is one.

Mr. Buthelezi, as traditional premier of the Zulus, has for years influenced the monarch.

He led Inkatha in a bloody confrontation with the ANC in the dying years of apartheid rule in which thousands of people were killed in the Zulu heartland.

He threatened to boycott the historic April election, a prospect which raised fears of full-scale civil war in South Africa, until international mediators persuaded him at the eleventh hour to take part. He was handed the home affairs portfolio as a gesture of national unity.

The dispute within the nine million-strong Zulu nation boiled over when Mr. Buthelezi refused to obey the king's orders to cancel Shaka Day rallies commemorating the death of its founder.

Mr. Zwelithini cancelled the celebrations saying he

feared for his life after Inkatha supporters stormed the royal residence in Nongoma during a visit by Mr. Mandela recently.

It was unclear whether the debacle would affect Mr. Buthelezi's cabinet position, although the ANC said he was unfit to hold it.

The South African Communist Party, the ANC's election allies, said the incident gave "a frightening insight into the extraordinary intolerant, anti-democratic and high-handed attitude of the minister."

Callers to a local radio station were equally divided on whether he should resign or remain a minister.

His position is not challenged within Inkatha, which demanded the arrest of Prince Zulu.

Mr. Maseko said instead of fomenting fresh unrest and political intolerance, Mr. Buthelezi should be acting as a peacemaker.

"Buthelezi is extremely intolerant. He is not willing to take any criticism. Coupled with the intolerance is fear of losing his power-base," he said.

Jaffna Catholics pray for peace ahead of Pope visit

Agence France Presse

JAFFNA, Sri Lanka — The local Roman Catholic community, a small minority in this war-ravaged northern town, is storming heaven with prayers for an end to ethnic bloodletting ahead of a proposed papal visit to Sri Lanka early next year.

The Bishop of Jaffna, Thomas Saundaranayagam, said Catholics were keen to travel to Colombo, 400 kilometres south of this city, to greet Pope John Paul II during his overnight visit in January. But he added that peace should come to the region first.

A Catholic teacher here said local nuns had told church leaders they wanted to see the Pope during his January 21-22 stopover on his way back from the Philippines, where he will be attending a global youth conference.

"We too would certainly like to see the Pope. But we don't know whether we will be able to make it," said the teacher. Travel between this northern peninsula and the rest of the country is risky because of fighting between Tamil separatists and government troops.

One of the casualties of the conflict has been the 132-year-old St. James Church here. It was bombed and destroyed by the air force after Tamil Tiger guerrillas attacked a military facility in the province last November.

Nine Catholics, including two church workers, were killed, and another 30 who took refuge in the compound were wounded. A statue of Jesus survived intact, but the building is in ruins.

Nevertheless the church is considered a safe haven for local residents during major clashes between Tamils and the military. The church has denied allegations that it supports the Tigers.

Bishop Saundaranayagam welcomed peace initiatives from new Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga to end the conflict but said he feared hardliners on both sides of Sri Lanka's ethnic divide would try to scuttle her efforts, despite a desperate longing for peace among the civilian population.

The fighting between the separatist Liberation Tigers

or Tamil Eelam (LTTE), mainly Tamil Hindus, and the Sri Lankan security forces, comprised of Sinhalese Buddhists, has forced the closure of 12 parishes here.

"Many of our parishioners are now living in refugee camps. About 80,000 (or half the Catholic population here) have left the area and settled elsewhere," the bishop told a group of journalists last week.

The government has offered Catholics who wish to travel to Colombo for the Pope's visit safe passage through an army camp at the southern entrance to this region, but Tiger guerrillas have not done the same.

The Tigers, who run a parallel civil administration and maintain a system of immigration, argue that allowing civilians to travel through the army facilities could help the military prepare to use the same route to march into Jaffna.

The bishop wants a compromise. He says another route must be found to guarantee safe passage for the papal visit and for overall free travel between the Tamil heartland and the rest of the island.

Resolving the conflict will be "very difficult," he said. Some 30,000 people have died since the guerrillas launched a separatist campaign in 1972.

"We have to be realistic. They (the LTTE) will initially be dogmatic. They have a price on their heads... But that will change. The rest of us have to trust in God," he said.

Apart from providing spiritual guidance, the church is also involved in running refugee camps and maintaining health clinics for people who have limited access to hospitals and doctors in this strife-torn region.

Catholics, as well as the majority Hindus here, want the latest peace bid to bring results. But few residents are optimistic given the failure of political and military efforts so far to resolve the conflict.

"On this side, there is a real yearning for peace," the bishop said.

"For some people it is the last straw. We give them hope."

ملكو من الملوك

Senior World Bank official says Mideast peace dividend is better economic policy

MADRID (R) — The real dividend from moves towards peace in the Middle East will be better economic policies and closer regional cooperation, a senior World Bank official said Sunday.

"The focus in the Middle East is switching from politics to economics. Better economic policies are going to be the real peace dividend," the bank's vice-president for the Middle East and Africa, Carlo Koch-Weser, told a news conference.

"The challenge facing the region is to stimulate the flow of private investment," he said.

Mr. Koch-Weser, who was attending the bank's annual meeting here, said that aid groups were still facing problems channelling agreed funds to the autonomous Palestinian areas of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank Jericho area but that these were gradually being overcome.

He said the difficulties stemmed from some donors

being asked to switch funding from longer-term infrastructure projects and other traditional targets to day-to-day expenditure such as financing a police force.

"Some donors have political and even legal problems with that," he said. "It is not a question of lack of will."

A U.S.-coordinated aid effort pledged \$2.4 billion to the Palestinian autonomous regions over five years. The regions were set up earlier this year and have been followed by more steps towards establishing ties between Israel and Arab countries.

Mr. Koch-Weser said the benefits of moves towards peace would allow countries in the Middle East to devote more attention to getting economic policy right.

"Politicians are going to be increasingly judged on their ability to provide economic growth," he said.

Mr. Koch-Weser said that the World Bank stood ready to help Syria in its efforts to

build a more market-orientated economy but that the question of fresh financing was complicated by the country's debt arrears.

He said that the bank was discussing a new loan for Algeria, possibly amounting to between \$100 million and \$200 million, linked to a programme of economic and social reform.

Despite what he called political "volatility," he said the World Bank was confident that the government of President Liamine Zouerat was committed to reforming its state-dominated economy.

"We are working on an ambitious programme of structural reform (there)," Mr. Koch-Weser said.

Fresh lending to Iran remained frozen because of opposition of the bank's "shareholders," amongst them and United States, but the institution was continuing to disburse \$850 million of financing agreed previously, he said.

G-7 urges poor states to take smaller IMF cash deal

MADRID (R) — Needy nations considered a take-it-or-leave-it offer Sunday to accept a slimmed down \$24 billion package of reserve assets made by the IMF's Group of Seven (G-7) paymasters.

The G-7 has made it clear the developing world should take what it can get after finance ministers met Saturday to thrash out a compromise deal on a new issue of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) reserve money.

But ahead of Sunday's policy-setting IMF Interim Committee in Madrid, Third World leaders have been threatening to block anything that falls far short of the \$50 billion scheme proposed by the fund's managing director Michel Camdessus.

The European Union's Economics Commissioner Henning Christophersen said opposition by developing countries meant it would be difficult to reach a compromise.

"The lunch promises to be pretty tense," G-7 official said of the event that will get discussions on the SDRs under way.

Both rich and poor states can muster the 15 per cent of IMF votes needed for an effective veto in the Interim Committee.

G-7 and IMF officials say that a stalemate in the Interim Committee may mean a new meeting on the issue next month.

German Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer, a key opponent of an SDR issue on the grounds it risks stoking world inflation, said Saturday the G-7 compromise was the furthest he would go.

Bonn's Finance Minister

Theo Waigel told the Interim Committee Sunday: "I see no room for negotiation."

"It's the only show in town," said British Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke.

French Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery, who has fought a lonely battle against Mr. Camdessus's plan, appeared keen to get the message over to the developing world that the compromise was a fair package — and the best they would get.

"It's not that bad," he said. Mr. Alphandery was at pains to stress that France had persuaded the G-7 to amend IMF rules to make it clear the SDR issue would not be a one-off-kiss of death for the 1960s idea that the unit, whose value is based on a basket of major currencies, would be issued regularly to all IMF members to bolster world liquidity.

But German officials took a different line, saying the most important aspect of the G-7 deal was that there would be no danger of repeated bids to create new SDRs.

Mr. Camdessus, a former Bank of France governor, proposed issuing 36 billion SDRs, worth about \$50 billion, very quickly.

He wanted an immediate general share-out based on countries' IMF shares or quotas in the fund, followed by a special issue requiring an amendment of the IMF rules. This would go to the 37 poorest countries and east European states who missed out on the last issue in 1981, before they joined.

The G-7 plan is for a complex special allocation that gives every country a choice between raising their SDR reserves by eight per cent of their quota or taking them up to a ceiling of 24 per cent.

Needy nations should get rather more than half the issue. But not until 179 members' parliaments have ratified it.

Mr. Alphandery said the G-7 was committed to seeing those ratifications completed by the end of next year. But that may not be quick enough for the developing countries.

Japan hails trade accord with U.S. but regrets moves toward sanctions

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese leaders Sunday welcomed the trade agreement reached with the United States in three important areas but regretted U.S. moves toward sanctions over the unresolved issue of automobiles.

"It will have a good effect on overall Japan-U.S. relations," Japan's chief cabinet secretary, Kozo Igarashi, said in a statement, referring to accords on government procurement, the insurance business and flat glass in talks aimed at cutting Japan's huge trade surplus with the United States.

However, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and auto industry leaders regretted U.S. moves toward sanctions over failure in talks in Washington to reach agreement on opening Japan's market to more American automobiles and auto parts.

"It's very regrettable the 301 clause was invoked in the process of talks," he told reporters, referring to U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor, who said his office would "initiate a 301 investigation" of the Japanese car parts market.

Mr. Kantor made the remarks in Washington following his unsuccessful talks with Japan's International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on the auto issues.

Mr. Hashimoto and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono briefed Mr. Murayama on their marathon talks with Mr. Kantor after returning home from Washington Sunday, officials said.

Mr. Murayama was quoted as telling the two ministers that he was satisfied with the partial agreements with the United States. The prime minister noted that Tokyo managed to prevent an all-out confrontation with Washington over trade.

Tokyo market dealers, meanwhile, said that the outcome of the trade talks in Washington had been expected and that it would have no major impact on the mar-



U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor holds a bundle of cables used by the U.S. telecommunications industry during a press conference in Washington following a marathon 19 hours of trade talks with the Japanese delegation. The United States and Japan earlier reached an accord on Japanese government procurement of medical and telecommunications equipment (AFP photo)

increase in transactions in the auto parts sector," Mr. Igarashi said in the statement. "The government of Japan has taken a sincere and vigorous approach in the framework talks with such steps as seriously considering deregulation premised on an assurance of the safety of replacement parts as well," he said.

Iran checks foreign currency spending to halt rial's slide

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran announced Sunday new measures to reduce foreign currency spending in a bid to check the slide of the rial, which has registered a new fall against the U.S. dollar in recent days.

From Monday the interior ministry is to clamp down on private, open-air money-changers, who have operated in their thousands until now as authorities turned a blind eye.

The move will leave

around 100 private foreign exchange offices on the free market who are authorised to work alongside state-owned banks.

Private money-lenders had become practically the sole source of foreign currency for Iran's importers, as bank stocks have been severely depleted for more than a year by the country's financial crisis.

The number of private bureaux de change was already slashed by three-

quarters in June, in a drive by authorities to reduce demand for foreign currency and control exchange rates on the free market.

The trade ministry also announced an end to the practice of export companies giving up their rights to foreign currency to importers.

Since the beginning of the year import licences have been restricted to the value of foreign currency brought into Iran through exports.

Vietnam starts curbs on dollar use

HANOI (R) — Vietnam has started curbing the use of the U.S. dollar, which has served for years as a parallel currency to the national unit, the dong.

First indications were that the new foreign exchange rules, requiring the dong to be used for nearly all transactions, had little impact.

Most hotels were still hilling customers in dollars, though some smaller ones charges guests in dong, changing their dollars in front-desk exchange kiosks.

Some shops which previously charged in dollars became "exchange agents" for the banks, continuing to take dollars and changing them on the spot into dong. They will then deposit the dollars in the bank.

"It's like a house with two doors," said a hotel employee. "You go in one door

with dollars and you change them into dong. For the guest, it doesn't make any difference."

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet ordered the changes last August to suck at least \$600 million in dollar notes circulating in this communist country of 72 million people into the banking system.

Hotels, restaurants, landlords, some shops and Vietnamese state and private companies — now required to deposit their hard currency earnings in bank accounts — were among the businesses most likely to be affected.

But foreign analysts, concerned about the impact of the regulations on foreign investment confidence, said it would be several weeks before the effect was clear.

The Bank of Foreign Trade and other commercial banks set up about 400 exchange

kiosks to make changing money easier for tourists and others requiring dong.

Private dealers, long tolerated by the authorities, continued to change dollars for old customers but predicted the new system would not be good for business.

They said the domestic price of gold would rise because Vietnamese would turn to it as the main "safe haven" savings medium instead of dollars under the floorboards.

"For private businesses, there will be fewer clients and the transactions must be shielded, so income will go down," one said.

"State enterprises will face more problems because all transactions and payments must go through the state... tax evasion and avoidance will be more difficult," the

trader said.

Most companies with access to dollars used to trade and make payments in cash rather than through the banks.

Airlines, telecommunications, insurance, shipping and other firms in industries with extensive overseas contacts and payments may continue legally to charge in dollars.

It appeared likely that some big hotels would be granted exemption from the rules to do likewise.

The (central) State Bank has said it does not expect big fluctuations in the exchange rate, though foreign bankers believe increased demand will strengthen the dong.

The dollar continued to trade in its normal recent range of 10,900 to 11,005 dong to \$1 on Sunday.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen
GLASBERGEN
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CARNELIAN: A grounding stone. It firmly anchors ideas and inspiration, alleviates absent-mindedness and mental confusion. It is good for circulation.

JUMBLE

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WYLEN
KOSMY
VACTAR
TUGIRA

They're everywhere
WHAT THEY BECAME WHEN THE INSECT'S ATTACKED.
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: THE

Yesterday's Jumble: PARCH PAPER HOURLY CLAUSE
Answer: How she described her well-behaved young dog — A HUSH PUPPY

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY OCTOBER 3, 1994
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An excellent day to get the week off to a good start where you will be wide awake to new and advanced ways to move forward in both your business and personal life. Be alert of mindful of delays.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get into activities which can put you in the public eye and will give you a chance to get ahead in your career and make you successful.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Before getting into that new course of action, be sure to consult one who has much experience along such lines of endeavour.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Use those systems which have worked successfully in the past in dealing with persons in business and you will gain much profit.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Showing your partners that you operate very sensibly is wise and you gain their added cooperation for a new project.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Make sure you understand your assignments thoroughly and handle them efficiently so you gain the respect of higher-ups and fellow associates.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take care you do not overspend where recreation is concerned and try to cut down on such in the future or you could have nothing.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Make sure that all home matters are solidly based and if yourself of whatever is absolute or unworkable to complete a project.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Begin the week properly by answering any letters which are important and putting in motion any new enterprises which you helped developed.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Look into the monetary side of any situation today and everything turns out all right for you in getting what you want in life.

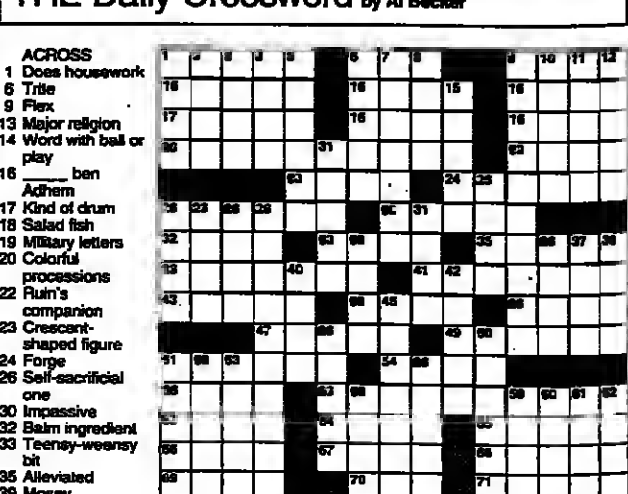
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get that new course of activity started which will last for some time. Tonight, be sure to rest up for the week ahead and enjoy yourself.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Plan and handle practical affairs wisely and stop all that daydreaming and socialising which gets you nowhere towards your success.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have fine capabilities for getting projects down to a workable level and also handling details precisely. Utilise this talent.

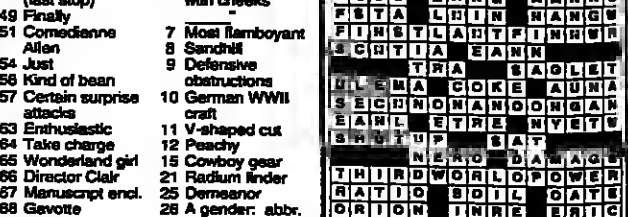
Birthingstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

THE Daily Crossword by Al Becker



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Puzzle solved:



Print answer here: THE

Yesterday's Jumble: PARCH PAPER HOURLY CLAUSE
Answer: How she described her well-behaved young dog — A HUSH PUPPY

Print answer here: THE

Yesterday's Jumble: PARCH PAPER HOURLY CLAUSE
Answer: How she described her well-behaved young dog — A HUSH PUPPY

Financial Markets

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (September 26 - September 30, 94)

AMMAN — The dollar appreciated sharply against the yen at the end of last week, as it ended 1.34 per cent higher against the Japanese currency. The dollar stabilised against the mark and depreciated marginally against sterling.

The dollar appreciated in New York Monday influenced by rumours that the United States and Japan will reach a trade agreement before the end of September, the deadline set by the United States for possible economic sanctions against Japan if it did not open its markets to American products. Dealers were cautiously trading ahead of the Federal Open Committee's meeting the next day, as analysts were uncertain whether the committee's meeting will result in an increase in the U.S. interest rates.

The dollar depreciated against other major currencies Tuesday, as the Federal Reserve refrained from tightening its monetary policy. Although such a move was widely anticipated by the market, analysts feared that it might reflect a possible tilt-up in the Fed's inflation fighting policy. Analysts indicated that the Federal Open Market Committee's decision did not rule out the possibility of a rate increase on its next meeting on Tuesday 15/11/1994.

The dollar appreciated against other major currencies Wednesday, however. It appreciated against the mark, as the German unit depreciated against other European currencies. The mark's depreciation was due to news that Germany's Free Democratic Party, the coalition partner of the ruling Christian Democratic Union, failed to gain sufficient electoral votes in Bavaria earlier this week. This has prompted questions regarding the ruling coalition's prospects in Germany's election due to be held on the 16th of October.

Moreover, the dollar appreciated against the yen due to traders' optimism towards the U.S.-Japan trade negotiations, as reports showed that the two countries may possibly reach a partial agreement. Such an agreement would weaken the case for economic sanctions against Japan.

The dollar depreciated on Thursday, as traders were cautious ahead of the end-September deadline that the United States had set to impose trade sanctions against Japan.

By the end of the week, the dollar appreciated against the mark and the yen, while depreciating marginally against sterling. The dollar's appreciation was due to traders' expectations that the trade negotiations between Japan and the United States will lead to partial agreement.

Traders' expectations were influenced by news that the two parties were close to an agreement regarding government procurement of communication and medical equipment. Analysts anticipated that a partial agreement will not benefit the dollar and will not negate possible limited sanctions against Japan.

The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.5501 marks, 99.16 yen and at \$1.5800 to the pound sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	23/9/94	30/9/94	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.5770	1.5800	0.19 %
Deutsche Mark	1.5488	1.5501	10.08 %
Swiss Franc	1.2865	1.2859	0.05 %
French Franc	5.2935	5.2925	0.02 %
Japanese Yen	97.85	99.16	11.34 %

Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	23/9/1994	30/9/1994
U.S. Dollar	4.75	5.87
Sterling Pound	5.25	7.31
Deutsche Mark	4.81	5.50
Swiss Franc	5.75	4.50
French Franc	5.25	6.18
Japanese Yen	2.16	2.43

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 2/10/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6970	0.6990
Sterling Pound	1.0972	1.1027
Deutsche Mark	0.4487	0.4509
Swiss Franc	0.5401	0.5428
French Franc	0.1315	0.1322
Japanese Yen	0.7019	0.7054
Dutch Guilder	0.4007	0.4027
Swedish Krona	0.0446	0.0446
Italian Lira	0.0446	0.0446
Belgian Franc	0.0446	0.0446

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 02/10/1994

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADE VOLUME	PRV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE
ARAB BANK	29,170	182.250	182.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	25,189	3.950	3.920
BANK OF JORDAN	81,024	4.000	4.010
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	21,524	2.590	2.590
THE HOUSING BANK	12,480	2.550	2.550
JORDAN KIBLA BANK	753	2.550	2.550
JORDAN GULF BANK	6,481	1.720	1.720
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	5,658	1.630	1.630
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	7,082	1.630	1.640
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	5,610	1.610	1.610
JORDAN PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE	1,210	1.570	1.570
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	1,921	1.590	1.590
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	1,310	1.300	1.300
JORDAN NATIONAL TRADING LINES	26,018	3.550	3.520
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	9,661	2.730	2.700
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	194	1.270	1.290

JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT

JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALBA
JORDANIAN HOTEL & TOURISM HOTELS
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY
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ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING
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ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY
GENERAL INVESTMENT
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES
JORDAN ROPEWORK INDUSTRIES
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACHINERY
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS
FOOTWEAR INVESTMENT
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.

1,097	0.980	0.970	0.980
7,245	11.550	11.500	11.500
99,709	2.590	2.580	2.570
4,070	3.700	3.700	3.700
5,495	2.750	2.750	2.740
9,345	9.550	9.550	9.540
5,490	5.390	5.250	5.120
14,300	7.000	6.870	6.860
3,175	6.400	6.350	6.350
2,650	2.650	2.650	2.650
1,644	2.760	2.760	2.760
5,635	16.250	16.100	16.100
9,574	1.000	0.990	1.000
1,600	7.500	7.500	7.500
3,900	3.250	3.250	3.250
49,220	1.430	1.470	1.450
6,719	4.100	4.100	4.100
4,448	1.600	1.590	1.600
4,900	0.840	0.840	0.840
672	0.840	0.840	0.840
15,707	2.010	2.010	2.010
1,174	5.100	5.090	5.100
2,398	4.410	4.260	4.260
71,600	2.890	2.890	2.790

Jordan, Malaysia to set up joint business council



Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad (fourth from left) on Sunday meets with Malaysian students studying in Jordan (photo below) (Petra photos)



Jordan, Malaysia to set up joint business council

By Khattab Salman
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An agreement to establish a joint business council between the Jordanian Businessmen Association and the Malaysian Chambers of Commerce and Industry was signed Sunday at the end of an official state visit by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Bin Muhammad.

The agreement aims to boost and enhance economic and trade cooperation between Jordan and Malaysia.

"Although we have established some trade links, a lot more can be done to enhance the development of the business activities between our two countries," Dr. Mahathir said in a speech on the occasion.

He added that the volume of trade between Jordan and Malaysia has increased from \$65 million in 1989 to \$102 million in 1993. However, bilateral trade is still small, accounting for less than one per cent of Malaysia's external trade.

He indicated that trade between Jordan and Malaysia was confined to a narrow range of products comprising mainly palm oil and palm oil products from Malaysia and fertilizers from Jordan. This narrow trade, he said, could be attributed to, among other things, the lack of direct contacts between the Malaysian and Jordanian businessmen, as well as the limited information on products and market opportunities.

According to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) international trade report of 1993 Malaysia is now the 19th largest trading nation in the world.

Dr. Mahathir invited Jordanian businessmen to visit Malaysia and see for themselves the vast trade opportunities available for Jordanian exports.

"Jordanian companies could set up their regional offices in Malaysia and use Malaysia as their base to launch their products in the South Asian market... at the same time, Malaysia could offer a wide range of manufactured and intermediate products required by Jordan," he explained.

Malaysia has a broad manufacturing base amounting to \$34 billion representing 73% of its total volume of exports.

The agreement for the joint business council was signed by president of the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) Hamdi Tabar on the Jordanian side, and by head of the Malaysian chambers of commerce and industry Azmi Hamzah.

A second agreement was signed between the Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company and Malaysian Stron Medical Company during a working lunch on Sunday hosted by JBA.

The agreement would facilitate medical exports and cooperation between the two countries.

A memorandum of understanding was also signed between the Jordanian association for exports of fresh fruits and vegetables and the Malaysian federal authority for the purpose of marketing of agricultural products in Jordanian and Malaysian markets.

Nigeria hikes fuel prices

LAGOS (AFP) — The Nigerian military junta Sunday took people in this oil-rich west African nation by surprise by hiking official fuel prices by nearly 400 per cent, witnesses said, but police closed garages in Abuja after they posted the new prices.

Police arrested garage owners who stuck up posters detailing the new prices, raised at midnight Saturday, and closed the petrol stations, an AFP correspondent in the federal capital Abuja said. Only garages selling oil at the old prices were allowed to remain open.

However in other less politically-sensitive states — such as Oyo, Osun and Ogun — the new prices were posted.

People have been expecting a jump in traditional low oil prices since the beginning of the political crisis.

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Asian Games launched as Hiroshima pleads for peace

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP) — The city reduced to rubble by an atomic bomb nearly 50 years ago launched one of Asia's largest-ever sporting events Sunday with a powerful plea for world peace.

Japanese Emperor Akihito declared the 12th Asian Games open at 2:39 p.m. (0539 GMT) after a procession of participants into Hiroshima's new 50,000-seat stadium.

Nearly 5,000 athletes from 42 nations and territories will be competing over the next two weeks for a total of 337 gold medals in 34 sports.

China, overwhelming victor at the last Asian Games, is certain to reap the largest medal harvest.

The opening festivities began with an upbeat concert by young singers from four Asian nations and ended with a spectacle of light and dance depicting mankind moving from despair toward hope and peace.

Figures wearing dark mantles, suffering from repeated ordeals, were supplanted by young women in bright attire on a field splashed with glitter and light. A joyous, mass dance ended the 4½-hour ceremony.

In one of the opening speeches, Hiroshima's Mayor, Hironobu Furukawa, president of the organizing committee, said he hoped the games' theme of Asian harmony would help create "an attractive and dynamic Asia for the 21st century" and that Hiroshima's "message for the pursuit of peace will be heard throughout Asia and all the world."

Both the emblem and mascots of the games are variations on the dove of peace, while the torch for lighting the games' flame was started from both the flame of the 1990 games in Beijing and from the "Flame of Peace" in a Hiroshima park dedicated to the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Helicopters flurried overhead and security on the ground was tight. Radical leftists, who oppose Japan's monarchy, had threatened to disrupt the opening ceremony, and Saturday dozens of radicals demonstrated against the emperor's visit to Europe, due to begin after Sunday's ceremonies.

The emperor's late father, Hirohito, was the symbolic leader of Japan during World War II and announced the nation's surrender days after the United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japanese cities in August 1945.

The first all but obliterated Hiroshima, leaving some 140,000 dead. But the city has since been rebuilt into one of Japan's loveliest, and views the games as proof of its rebirth.

The Hiroshima Games are the biggest in the Asian's 43-year history. North Korea, under international pressure for allegedly trying to develop nuclear weapons, is the only eligible country not at the Hiroshima Games.

The roster of nations is also joined for the first time by five former Soviet republics in Central Asia, while war-torn Cambodia is returning after a 20-year absence.

The only significant political shadow hanging over the games is a China-Taiwan controversy over the presence here of Taiwan Vice Premier Hsu Li-Teh.

After earlier threatening to boycott the games if Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui came, China still protested strongly over Hsu's visit. China claims he is at the games for political maneuvering against Beijing and should have been denied entry by Japan, which has diplomatic relations with China but not with Taiwan.

Taiwan says Hsu is here to learn for Taiwan's bid to become the games host in 2002, and that Beijing is the one injecting politics into sports. Beijing does not object to the presence of Taiwan's team, which uses the name "Chinese Taipei" rather than Taiwan.

With a number of world record holders in swimming and track and field and strong competitors in a dozen other sports, China is again expected to dominate Asia's version of the Olympics.

In the 1990 games, China won 183 gold medals, followed by South Korea with 54 and Japan with 38.

China has sent 570 athletes to Hiroshima, about the same number as South Korea but fewer than the host team's 680 athletes.

The ceremony, seen by 44,000 spectators in warm autumn weather, opened with a peace concert by pop singers Ryu Fan and Wei Wei of China, Goongang of Thailand and Yukihide Takekawa of Japan. The Philippine group Smokey Mountain belted out the song "We Can Change the World" while a Hiroshima park dedicated to the abolition of nuclear weapons.

This was followed by a colorful depiction of winds and bridges linking the people of Asia, and by 676 children cavorting with Poppo and Cuccu, the games mascots.

Another spectacle portrayed storms, serenity and contrasting seasonal moods of the Seto inland sea, which borders Hiroshima, and climaxed with a march of Samurai warriors to the throbs of 105 drums.

The entry march of the teams featured the flowing robes of the Arab world, kilts of the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan and the kimonos of the Japanese women who carried the country name placards of all but the Iranian team.

Apparently in keeping with the wishes of the fundamentalist Muslim nation, a male marched in front of the Iranians with the placard.

Some of the warmest applause went to Cambodia, China, Taiwan, host Japan and the one-man Palestinian team.



Japan's steeplechaser Yasunori and women's basketball player Aki Ichijo (seen in photo above) light the Asian Games flame Sunday during the opening ceremony held in Hiroshima. Photo on right shows the Jordanian delegation during the flag raising ceremony at the Athletes' Village Saturday. Below, Palestine flag-bearer Mohammad Al Bakri leads the one-man Palestinian delegation during the opening ceremony (AFP photos)

Asian Games becoming too big, Japan warns

HIROSHIMA (R) — Japan's top sports administrator, although elated at the successful opening of the Asian Games here Sunday, warned the event was becoming too big.

"It's time for us to limit the total number of participants and events at the Asian Games to ease the economic burden on the shoulders of hosting cities," Hironobu Furukawa, president of the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC), said after the opening ceremony of the games.

The appeal may not meet with much support from prospective host cities or those who have staged them before because most of them have either added or are in the process of trying to add homegrown disciplines to the games.

Both China's Wushu and India's Kabaddi are sports that have gained admission in the games despite their limited appeal and obscurity before the event was staged in Beijing and New Delhi.

But Furukawa said he hoped that the Hiroshima Games could be a big turning point in making them more manageable.

Since the first games in New Delhi in 1951, the once-every-four-year event has grown from nearly 500 athletes from 11 countries

competing in six sports to the present 7,300 athletes from 43 countries competing in 34 sports.

In the last Asian Games in Beijing in 1990 there were 6,122 athletes from 37 countries competing in 27 sports.

"If the games keep growing at the recent pace, it will soon become too difficult to host them," warned Furukawa, who also heads the Hiroshima Asian Games Organising Committee (HAGOC).

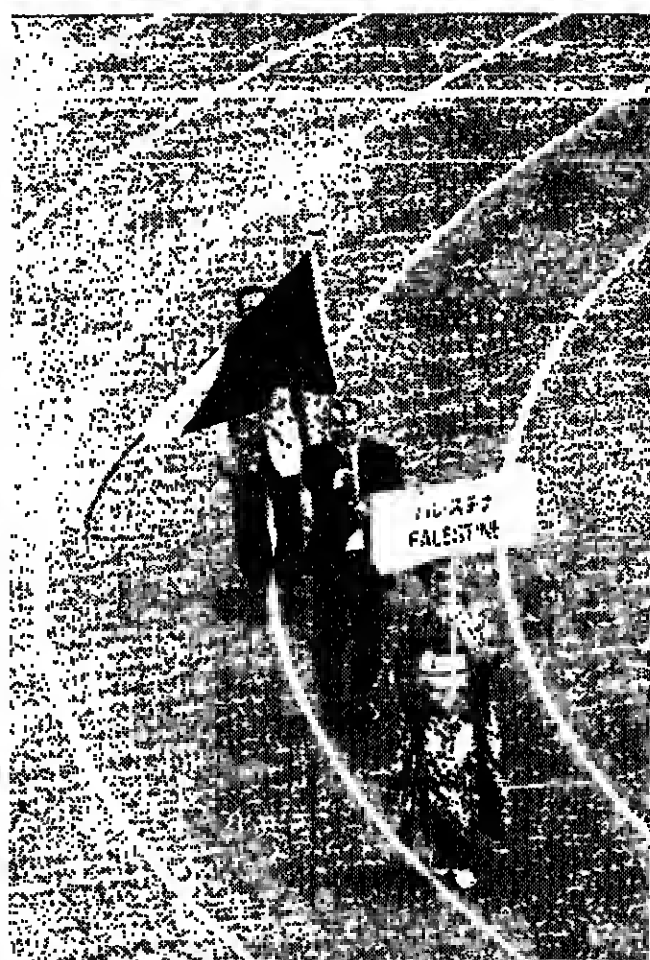
"Considering the fact that Hiroshima is a city with a population of some one million, its organisers have done an excellent job to stage the multi-sports competition," Furukawa said.

It is estimated about \$1.5 billion was spent on building a new airport and stadium.

Forty-three sports facilities also were built or remodelled in and around Hiroshima to stage the games, and even Japan with its economic might felt the pinch, Furukawa said.

The organisers had trouble raising funds for the games, said Furukawa, who is also a vice president of the Olympic Committee of Asia (OCA), the governing body for sport in the continent.

Furukawa said he will present his views on the issue at the two-day general assembly of the OCA, starting Wednesday.



Sheikh rattled by Taiwan debacle

HIROSHIMA (AFP) — Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah of Kuwait hung onto his job as president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) but the China-Taiwan controversy could strip him of any effective power.

"He has lost a lot of credibility. He could become a puppet," said a senior OCA member who asked not to be identified.

The sheikh's invitation to Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui which sparked off the row widened the gulf between Middle East countries and the rest of Asia.

Fears of a Chinese boycott, borne out of the rescinded OCA invitation to Lee and the presence of Taiwanese Vice Premier Hsu Li-Teh, have caused weeks of uncertainty for the Hiroshima organisers. The embarrassment for the OCA executive has been enormous.

No other candidate has stepped forward for the post of president. But the future direction of Asian sport could rest with the five former Soviet republics — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The battle is on between the two camps to win their allegiance.

Japan, and China, had never fully involved themselves in Asian Olympic affairs, which they considered second division. That left a vacuum which the Middle East countries filled.

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Parma shoot to top spot in Italy

ROME (AFP) — Italian side Parma grabbed top spot in the Italian championship Sunday with a 2-0 win over Torino.

The former European Cup Winners Cup champions thanked Zola, in the 58th minute, and Branca's 82nd minute penalty to keep them just ahead of AS Roma on goals scored as both have a similar goal difference.

An Abel Balho strike against Sampdoria kept AS Roma hot on the heels of Parma. In the only goal of the match, Argentine striker Balbo struck home a 53rd minute goal against the Italian Cup winners.

And third-placed Juventus would have to win by a four-goal margin at home to Inter Milan in a match which was to be held late Sunday to eclipse the leading two.

European Cup champions AC Milan got back to winning ways after last week's defeat by Cremonese. Marco Simone found the target five

minutes after the break for a 1-0 victory over Brescia.

Florentina's Gabriel Batistuta found the net in their 1-1 draw at home to Lazio — his sixth goal of the season.

Basement club Padova had to fight hard for their first point of the season to lift them above Reggiana, who fell 3-1 at Genoa.

Two goals from Colombian Freddy Rincon and a further from Massimo Agostini put Napoli firmly in the driving seat as Padova, who scored with Damiano Longhi, trailed 3-1 with just six minutes left.

But Filippo Maniero scored two goals in as many minutes for a 3-3 draw to the relief of Padova's joint coaches Mauro Sandrini and Gino Stacchini.

Mid-table sides Bari and Cagliari could only play out a goalless draw, and Foggia won 2-1 at Cremonese with goals from Oherdan Biagioni, Igor Kolyanov, and Nicolo Sciacca.

Swedish referee says he saw bottle hit Salzburg goalkeeper

MILAN (R) — Swedish referee Lef Sundell has confirmed he saw Salzburg goalkeeper Otto Konrad hit on the head by a water bottle during the Austrian club's champions' league defeat by AC Milan Wednesday.

"Straight after the (Giovanni) Stroppa goal, two half-litre plastic bottles containing mineral water plus a liqueur bottle rained down on to the pitch," Sundell was quoted as telling La Stampa newspaper.

"One of the (water) bottles, not full almost, hit the goalkeeper Konrad on the head. There was no blood and I'm not a doctor. I took note of the incident," he said.

Konrad was struck on the head by the bottle thrown from the crowd after European champions Milan opened the scoring in the 40th minute.

He was substituted after Milan went 2-0 ahead in the 59th minute — half an hour after he was hit — and spent the night under observation in hospital.

UEFA has said the champions' league Group D match, won 3-0 by the Italians, could be awarded as a forfeit 3-0 win by its disciplinary committee or the match could be replayed.

The disciplinary committee will meet Oct. 6 to hear the Austrians' appeal over the incident.

Milan officials are dubious about the extent of Konrad's injuries. Coach Fabio Capello has said UEFA should consider disciplining him for feigning injury.

Konrad rejected suggestions that he had been play acting.

"I know what Milan are saying — that if I had been groggy bow could I have made those saves from (Rudolf) Gullit and (Demetrio) Albertini," he told La Stampa.

"It's simple. At that point I still felt fine. It was afterwards that I lost it. I asked for the physio and doctor to come on. When the referee refused I went off," he said.

"In the dressing room my head was spinning and I vomited."

Italian media reports said Konrad left Milan's San Carlo Hospital in a wheelchair Thursday and was flown home in an air ambulance.

However, tests at the hospital had revealed no serious damage.

Should the Salzburg protest be upheld, precedents suggest UEFA would probably order a replay at a neutral stadium.

In 1984 UEFA ordered the replay of a Cup Winners' Cup match between Celtic of Scotland and Rapid Vienna, then managed by present Salzburg trainer Otto Baric, after Austrian player Rudi Weinhofer was injured by a coin thrown by Scottish fans.

In 1971 Internazionale Milan were granted a replay after a 7-1 European Cup defeat by Borussia Moenchengladbach in Germany because striker Roberto Boninsegna was hit by a bottle. Inter earned a 0-0 draw in the replay and went through.

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Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, South Korea advance at Volleyball World Championship

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — The United States late Saturday beat Brazil, the world's top ranked team, in a day marked by surprising upsets at 13th volleyball men's world championship.

The seventh ranking U.S. took the Brazilians to five sets 3-2 (15-12, 15-9, 9-15, 10-15, 15-12) to place at the top of Group B. They were followed by Brazil, Germany and Argentina, which was eliminated.

"It was a gutsy effort and a hard fought game. I'm happy. I think it's a great win for our team and gives us more confidence and momentum into the next round. But there is a lot of play left," said U.S. coach Frederick Sturm.

Cuba also defeated. Hol-

land 3-0 (15-12, 15-13, 16-14) to lead Group D. It was followed by Holland, South Korea and Sweden.

Earlier Japan defeated defending champion Italy and Greece defeated Russia in the other two upsets.

The International Volleyball Federation said that Japan's 15-4, 17-15, 9-15, 14-16, 17-15 Group C victory advanced it to the next round and eliminated China.

After the preliminary round, Italy led Group C followed by Bulgaria, Japan and China.

In the day's other upset, 13th-ranked Greece defeated sixth-ranked Russia 8-15, 15-13, 4-15, 15-12, 15-13 in Group A. The Soviet Union finished with a bronze medal

in the last world championship, held in Brazil in 1990.

Greece had the advantage of a packed stadium of 16,000, the largest crowd so far at the championship. Greece finished the preliminary round atop Group A followed by Russia, Canada and Algeria.

"From now on our team will be very dangerous because we are no longer nervous," Greece's Cuban coach Gilberto Herrera said.

The four group winners all advanced to the quarterfinals while the next two in each of the groups advance to a play-off round. Each of the group winners face one of the other group winners following a blind draw for quarterfinal

seeding. Each second-place team faces a third-place team with the winners advancing to the quarterfinals.

Earlier in the day, underdog Canada scored its first victory, blanking Algeria and advancing to the play-off round.

Canada defeated the Algerians 15-10, 15-11, 15-4 to eliminate the North African team from contention.

"We were overwhelmed by the fear of defeat, rather than the desire to win," Canada coach Clement Lemieux said.

Group B's Germany also advanced to the play-off round with a 16-14, 4-15, 15-8, 15-6 victory over Argentina. Before and nearly the mid-ranked Argentines

had put up a good showing and nearly upset Brazil Thursday before suffering a second defeat against the United States Friday.

"We are very happy that we won and can play in the elimination round," German captain Rene Hecht said.

In Group D, South Korea eliminated Sweden 15-7, 15-7, 6-15, 9-15, 15-7 and Bulgaria beat China 15-10, 15-11, 15-8 in Group C.

Groups A and B played in Athens while C and D played in the Northern city of Salo-

nica. The last world championship was held in Brazil in 1990, with Italy beating Cuba 3-1 in the final. The Soviet Union was third, followed by Brazil.

Sheikh Mohammad wins Arc de Triomphe at last

PARIS (R) — Top owner Sheikh Mohammad of Dubai clinched one of the few glittering prizes in horse racing to escape bin when the fast-improving Carnegie won the Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe Sunday.

After 12 previous failures in the race, the sheikh went to war with four runners and the strategy paid off handsomely.

Winning trainer Andre Fabre, twice successful before, had five runners and ended up with first, third and fifth.

In an exciting finish, Carnegie, ridden by Thierry Jarnet, held on by a short neck from 1993 French Derby winner Hermoso. Apple Tree, ridden by John Reid, was a close third, half a length behind the runner-up.

Jarnet, who won the 1992 Arc on Subotica, was at his brilliant best on Carnegie, conjuring the last reserves out of the winner in a memorable battle to the line.

Carnegie had been strongly fancied in France for the last three weeks since his im-

pressive win over the course and 2.4 km distance in the Prix Niel, an important Arc trial.

He looked to be improving at just the right time and so it proved Sunday, to the delight of many in the huge Longchamp crowd.

Jarnet had a choice of mounts and his judgement proved unerring with Carnegie-lifting the \$750,000 first prize for the sheikh.

The English-trained runners were largely a disappointment. Ezzoud doing best to finish a close-up fourth under Walter Swinburn.

Bui Swinburn received a four-day suspension after Ezzoud was judged to have interfered with Apple Tree inside the final furlong. Reid's mount was squeezed for room on the rail.

Ezzoud also did no favours to the prospects of Millkom down at the start when lashing out with his hind legs and kicking Millkom who had been rearing up, upsetting Ezzoud.

Millkom, trained in the Provinces, had won all his

previous 10 races but the blow from Ezzoud virtually ruined his chances.

Trainer Ian Balding, near to tears, said: "It has been terribly worrying to bring her back from the York disaster."

"But this has always been her time of year. She does well in the autumn and looks back to her best."

Owner Jeff Smith said: "She goes to America for sure."

"The French were wonderful today. They let us do what we liked and she did one circuit of the parade ring and walked to the start. All they wanted was Lochsong in the race."

Earlier Sunday, sprint queen Lochsong, whose crown was knocked sideways on her last outing, was restored to her former glory at Longchamp.

The brilliant mare won Europe's top sprint race, the Prix de l'Abbaye, for the second year in succession. Last year she had six lengths to spare. On Sunday the margin was five lengths but she was just as impressive.

WBC welterweight champ Whitaker outifts McGirt

NORFOLK, Virginia (AP) — WBC welterweight champion Pernell Whitaker got up from a second-round knockdown and put on a brilliant display of boxing to beat Buddy McGirt before his home crowd at the Scope here Saturday night.

The judges Chuck Gimpa, Rudy Ortega and Steve Weisfeld scored it 117-113, 118-112, 117-110, all for Whitaker.

Computer analysis showed Whitaker, 30, landed 163 of 460 jabs and 167 of 348 power

punches. McGirt landed just 59 of 230 jabs and 95 of 274 power punches.

"He was the better man," said McGirt, a 30-year-old New Yorker. "He did what he had to do."

McGirt lost the 147-pound title to Whitaker in March last year when he fought with a left shoulder injury.

"I just took the left hook away from him. I'm not going to give him any excuses this time," Whitaker said. "I'm sure he was in better shape this time around."

Robinson holds on to WBO title

CARDIFF, Wales (AP) — Steve Robinson stunned Duke McKenzie with a left hook to the ribs in the ninth round to score a knockout and hold on to his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) featherweight title Saturday and stop his opponent winning a fourth title at different weights.

The short left had McKenzie sinking to the floor 10 seconds from the end of the round just as the challenger looked like getting on top of the fight at Cardiff Ice Rink.

McKenzie, former holder of world titles at featherweight, bantamweight and super-bantamweight, was outpunched in the early stages by the Welshman, making his fourth defence, but appeared to be getting on top at the time of the knockdown.

The two fighters were slugging it out in the centre of the ring when Robinson (125½ pounds, 56.48 kilos) produced a short left that had McKenzie (125 pounds, 56.25 kilos) sagging to the floor.

The London-born fighter failed to make the count.

"It's no good crying. Robinson is the number one and it's all about winning," said McKenzie, former IBF flyweight and WBO bantam and super-bantam champions during a 41-fight career.

Robinson now is 19-9-1 and McKenzie is 36-5-0.

In a non-title fight on the same card, British fighter Richie Winton was stopped in the fifth round by countryman Neil Swain



Novotna captures Leipzig tennis title

LEIPZIG, Germany (R) — Jana Novotna ended a sequence of three consecutive defeats in the Leipzig Women's Grand Prix tennis final by lifting the title on her 26th birthday Sunday.

Second-seeded Novotna of the Czech Republic beat top seed Mary Pierce of France 7-5, 6-1 in 86 minutes, having lost in the final to Steffi Graf in each of the previous three

years. Greeted on court by a "happy birthday" chorus, Novotna made a shaky start. She soon trailed 3-0 and was 5-2 down before she pulled her game round.

Pierce, world ranked fifth, opened with powerful ground strokes to the baseline but found herself having trouble once Novotna regained her pace and began to dominate the net.

Eltingh beats Olhovskiy to win Malaysian Open

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands picked up his second ATP title of the year when he defeated Andrei Olhovskiy of Russia 7-6 (7-1) 2-6 6-4 in the final of the \$400,000 Malaysian Open Sunday.

Eltingh, whose first ATP success this year was when he

won the OTB International Tennis Open at the end of August in Schenectady, New York, boosted his bank balance by \$54,000 Sunday while Olhovskiy collected \$31,800.

But Olhovskiy recovered from that setback to take the second set 6-2, setting up the

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♠ A Q 4 3
♥ 7 6 4
♦ K 9 8 3
♣ J 2

WEST
♠ 9 6
♥ Q J 10 8
♦ 10 9 8 5 3 4
♣ Q 10 7 6 2

EAST
♠ 8 3 2
♥ 9 3 2
♦ A K 9 7 4
♣ K J 10 7 6 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♠

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Managing Director

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The Care Bears at 11:00 a.m.								Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday.	

U.S. forces to target Haiti shadowy gunmen

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — U.S. forces in Haiti will turn their attention this week to dismantling the shadowy paramilitary units that have dogged their efforts at restoring stability, U.S. officials said Sunday.

U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schragger said that the weapons would be rooted out "in an aggressive way," but would give no further details of the operation.

U.S. officials and military officers have grown increasingly concerned that what they deemed to have been a relatively efficient operation in Haiti was being overshadowed by graphic media coverage of the violence.

And past links between the paramilitary gunmen and the Haitian police cast doubt on the ability or willingness of the local security forces to control the situation.

A grenade attack on a crowd of supporters of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide Thursday and a vicious street battle between pro and anti-Aristide factions Friday left at least 12 people dead and scores wounded.

The hooded drew criticism that the 20,000-strong U.S. operation to restore democracy in Haiti was failing to do its job either through indifference or fear of the political fallout from U.S. fatalities.

The main protagonists of the violence are believed to be hundreds of "attaches," paramilitary units closely associated with the Haitian army and police, and militants of the pro-military Front for Advancement and Progress in Haiti (FRAPH).

"FRAPH is an illegal party, anti-democratic, that foment violence," Mr. Schragger said.

ger said. In Washington, President Bill Clinton's Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said: "We are going to be a little more aggressive about insuring that we try to push the policies to get the Haitians to disarm those military factions that are still out there."

Mr. Panetta told CBS Television: "The effort is really going to be aimed at working with the Haitians to do that, to ensure that they are pursuing a much more aggressive policy about disarming." He did not provide further details.

Senator Christopher Dodd, who has just returned to the United States from Haiti, told CBS Television's "Face the Nation" that U.S. troops would disarm paramilitary groups and take their leaders into custody.

"They'd like to do it working with the Haitian armed forces because they want to work with some of these responsible elements... but if that doesn't work out they're going to disarm them one way or another," he said.

Mr. Dodd said there was no need to detain every paramilitary member because "if you can get the top people and isolate them... the structure falls apart."

U.S. soldiers disarmed Haiti's small naval base and seized private caches of arms in the area west of the capital Saturday.

Also Saturday, U.S. soldiers took dozens of shotguns and other firearms from a food warehouse belonging to a pro-army businessman after private guards there fired repeatedly on hundreds of would-be looters gathering outside. Seven people, including two children, were wounded by the gunfire. The arms seized at the

Admiral Killick naval base included semi-automatic weapons and machine-guns. Reporters saw soldiers search seven private locations, but U.S. military spokesmen said they did not have any information on other seizures.

The U.S. soldiers, in Sheridan tanks, met no resistance, said U.S. Navy Lieutenant Mark McCaffrey.

"We're just trying to make a stable environment out there for the future of Aristide," Lt. McCaffrey told the Associated Press.

The naval base recently had been used as a training centre for pro-army militias. Lt. McCaffrey said American soldiers confiscated 119 M-1 rifles, three M-60 machine guns, 11 assault weapons, 39 bolt-action or recoilless rifles, 13 cases of tear-gas grenades and four cases of ammunition.

Unlike the regular army and police, Haiti's poorly equipped navy, which has about 165 sailors, usually is not involved in repression.

The Killick base is named after a Haitian admiral who in 1902 blew himself up in his ship to avoid turning the vessel over to a German gunboat which had demanded its surrender. When U.S. troops invaded Haiti in 1915, the first wave landed at the Bizoton base.

Local radio reported that American soldiers took sacks, possibly containing weapons, from a hotel. The Hotel Voyager is owned by a paramilitary trainer and member of army chief Raoul Cedras' private "Ninja" security force. The man was detained by American troops Friday. The car he was riding in was full of automatic weapons and chargers.

Jordan in Asian Games in Hiroshima

HER ROYAL Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein leads the Jordanian team carrying the Kingdom's flag during the opening ceremony of the 12th Asian Games in Hiroshima, Japan, on Sunday.

Princess Haya, who has made her mark in sports in the Arab World, is taking part in the equestrian events of the Asian Games in Hiroshima.

Nearly 8,000 students, musicians and dancers took part in the opening ceremony of the Hiroshima event, the biggest and most impressive Asian Games in history (Asian Games launched as Hiroshima pleads for peace, page 10) (AFP photo)



International fertiliser conference opened

AMMAN (J.T.) — Industry and Trade Minister Rima Khalaf Huneidi said Sunday that Jordan had sufficient phosphate and potash to supply a large number of nations with their needs of fertilisers.

Over the past decade the Kingdom has worked hard in developing its fertiliser industry and has achieved major successes in this regard, said Dr. Huneidi at the opening of the 25th meeting of the International Fertiliser Industry Association (IFA) in Amman.

The conference, which is attended by delegates from 40 nations, also involves the participation of regional and international organisations. Jordan is striving to lay the foundation of a strategy based on close cooperation with friendly nations in production and distribution of fertilisers in world markets, said Dr. Huneidi, who was standing in for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the meeting.

The fertiliser industry was adversely affected by political and economic changes around the world in the past decade, but this industry is expected to flourish in the coming stage in view of the need for food production to suffice the evergrowing world population — forecast to be 8.5 billion tonnes by the year 2030 — said the minister.

Sameh Madani, Chairman of the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Coordination Committee, addressed the meeting outlining phosphate production in Jordan as far back as 1930.

Mr. Madani, who is also director general of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), told the audience that Jordanian phosphate — mostly mined at Al Hassa and Abiad Mines — was of very high quality.

He noted that the Shideh mine, which is being developed at present, was expected to produce 3.25 million tonnes annually by the year 1995 and six million in 1998.

PNA says all Awqaf staff under its control

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA), now views all employees of Islamic holy sites and institutions as coming under its jurisdiction, a Palestinian official said on Sunday.

Palestinian sources said the decision about control of employees of the Awqaf (Islamic) endowments, taken on Saturday, included those working in East Jerusalem.

Jordan last month said it was relinquishing control of Muslim holy sites and endowments in the West Bank but keeping control of those in Jerusalem, where it has played a special historical role.

A high-level Palestinian delegation is due to visit Jordan this week to discuss Jerusalem and other issues.

"The decision now includes all employees," Sheikh Hassan Tahboub, appointed by the Palestinian National Authority to supervise Muslim holy sites, told Reuters.

Adnan Al Hussein, head of the Awqaf department in Jerusalem, was not immediately available for comment. Employees in his office said they could not comment on whether they were now administered by Jordan or the Palestinian authority.

The Islamic endowments in the West Bank employ a total of 2,400 officials, including judges in Islamic (Shari'a) courts and teachers in Islamic schools.

At least 40 officials work in Islamic courts in Jerusalem.

The Jerusalem-based Al Quds newspaper on Sunday quoted Mohammad Abu Sridanah, a senior official for Islamic affairs in the Palestinian authority, urging officials not to hand over their seals of office to Jordanian appointed officials in Jerusalem.

Mr. Sirdanah said a "Charge d'affaires" for the Jordanian Awqaf in Jerusalem had asked all judges and clergy to hand over their seals as from Oct. 1.

But he said this would cripple the work of the Islamic courts and damage public interest.

Column 8

11th-hour language was offered by Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an 11th-hour settlement offer in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case, President Bill Clinton conceded that he may have met the woman in a hotel room and said he regretted "untrue assertions" made about her. Ms. Jones' lawyer said Saturday, Joseph Cammarata disclosed the draft of a statement by Mr. Clinton which the president's lawyer faxed to Ms. Jones' lawyer last May in an attempt to settle off a lawsuit. The settlement talks delayed the filing of the lawsuit, but negotiations collapsed when White House sources were quoted on television as saying that the delay was due to Ms. Jones' not having a case. According to Mr. Cammarata, Mr. Clinton's draft statement says: "I do not challenge" Ms. Jones' "claim" that the two met in a room at the Excelsior Hotel in 1991, although "I have no recollection" of it. "I may very well have met her in the past," "She did not engage in any improper or sexual conduct" and "I regret the untrue assertions which have been made about her conduct which may have adversely challenged her character and good name," it added, according to Mr. Cammarata. It has been known previously that Mr. Clinton offered a statement to settle the matter, but its terms were not known. The New York Times magazine first obtained the text of the statement, for a story on Mr. Clinton lawyer Robert Bennett being published Sunday. Ms. Jones alleges that while she was a state worker attending a public function at the hotel, Mr. Clinton dispatched a state police officer to summon her to a room where he then suggested she engage in a sexual act with him. She said she declined. Mr. Clinton's supporters have suggested Ms. Jones made up the story.

By a Jordan Times Reporter with agency patches

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS Crown Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan met with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Sunday.

The Crown Prince met with the two leaders in the White House in Washington. He was accompanied by his wife, Queen Alia, and their children. The Crown Prince met with the two leaders for about 45 minutes. He discussed the situation in the Middle East and the role of Jordan in the peace process.

President Clinton praised the Crown Prince for his leadership and his commitment to the peace process. He said that Jordan was a key player in the Middle East and that the Crown Prince was a respected leader.

The Crown Prince also met with the Israeli Prime Minister. He discussed the situation in the West Bank and the role of Jordan in the peace process. He said that Jordan was committed to the peace process and that it was a key player in the Middle East.

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Egyptian police seize opposition party HQ

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian police seized control of the Cairo headquarters of the Islamic opposition party Al Ahram on Sunday after a long legal battle to evict it from the building.

Four journalists from the party's monthpiece, also called Al Ahram, housed on the fourth floor of the building, were arrested, eyewitness Gamal Abdul Aziz from the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Aid told AFP.

Police armed with tear-gas surrounded the building in the morning, and later removed furniture and air-conditioners from the party's fifth floor offices, according to Abdul Aziz.

The eviction case began nine years ago when the owner, Ahlu Anein Abdul Meguid, sued to evict the party. After draw-out legal proceedings, the party's appeal was finally rejected on Sunday.

Police had surrounded the building before the court ruled its verdict, Zakaria Khidir, Al Ahram's news editor said.

During a standoff between journalists and security forces which lasted more than three hours about 150 people were trapped in the two floors, according to Mr. Abdul Aziz, and other Al Ahram journalists.

The tear-gas was not used but both sides hurled abuse. AFP correspondents saw police drag off journalist Ibrahim Abdul Sattar and put him in a police truck.

Journalists threw out hundreds of copies of the paper onto the police forces below, shouting "long live Mustafa Bakri," the paper's editor-in-chief.

State security forces detained Mr. Bakri two weeks ago and interrogated him over his paper's attacks on the U.N. world population

conference, and also articles attacking Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, two of Egypt's allies, in favour of Iran and Iraq.

He was released on bail, but charged with disseminating false information threatening state security and its relations with friendly countries.

Fifteen journalists from the party newspaper Al Ahram, which has offices in the same building, said they were going on hunger strike after eight of their colleagues were arrested for staging a protest in the party premises.

The liberal party occupied three flats while its newspaper has three other flats in the same building.

Juvenile detention

The Egyptian organisation for Human Rights said Sunday that at least 28 juveniles were being held in an adult prison in southern Egypt and that some claimed they were tortured.

It urged the government to move the boys, most aged 15 to 17 but one who is just 12, to juvenile institutions and to try them or release them. It noted keeping juveniles in an adult prison violates international conventions and Egyptian law.

Spokesmen at the interior ministry, which is responsible for internal security, were not available for comment. In the past, Egyptian officials have refused to comment on reports by the Egyptian group, which it says has no official standing.

The organisation, an independent group that monitors human rights abuses, said in a statement that the youths had been detained on charges ranging from spying on police to membership in the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah.

Former FIS leader to head armed group

ALGIERS (Agencies) — A former leading member of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Mohammed Said, has been named head of the Armed Islamic Group, the organisation that has claimed several killings of foreigners, a GIA statement said Sunday.

Said takes over from Cherif Gousmi, also known as Abu Abdullah Ahmad, who was killed by Algerian security forces last Sunday.

The text, signed by Gousmi's deputy Djamel Zitouni, said the GIA would continue on "the path of jihad (holy war) and martyrdom" until it brought about the "establishment of the law of God."

Mr. Zitouni, a member of the notorious "death falange," will remain as deputy leader under Said, the statement said.

It confirmed the official announcement of Gousmi's death "in a clash with the impious enemy," referring to Algerian security forces under the present military regime.

A former teacher of literature from the predominantly Berber Kabylia region, Said — real name Lounes Belkacem — joined the GIA in May and was named head of the GIA "caliphate," or government.

During the 1980s Said preached as an imam at the Al Akram Mosque in Algiers. He replaced FIS President Abassi Madani after his arrest in June 1991, and was himself arrested and held for a few months by the Algerian authorities.

In December 1991 he was elected to parliament for the FIS in the first round of elections that the government subsequently annulled. Until the annulment he was generally seen as a moderate, in favour of non-violence.

His defection to the GIA was confirmed by the FIS in July.

The choice of Said to head the GIA was seen as expressing the organisation's intention to share out responsibilities between a "political" leader, Said, and a "military" chief, the 26-year-old Zitouni.

Mr. Zitouni was seen as the organiser of the Aug. 3 attack in the Ain Allah district of Algiers in which five Frenchmen — three gendarmes and two consular officials — were killed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi cleric bans dissident statements

DUBAI (R) — A leading Saudi Arabian preacher on Sunday issued a religious edict against the publishing of statements by a London-based Saudi opposition group. Sheikh Abdullah Ben Abdul Rahman Al Jibrin, a member of Saudi Arabia's Committee of Religious Edicts, said statements by Mohammad Al Masaari should "not be distributed or published in any way." Mr. Masaari is a leader of the banned Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia (CDLR) which was set up in 1993 by ultra-conservative Saudi religious figures and was declared illegal by Saudi religious leaders. The CDLR statements are all signed by Mr. Masaari, a physics professor who the group says spent six months in detention in Saudi Arabia before going to London earlier this year. The group had said that Sheikh Jibrin was one of its founders but the sheikh, soon after the group was made public, said he did not learn of it until after it was formed.

3 killed in Egypt as strikers, police clash

CAIRO (R) — Three people were killed and at least 40 were wounded on Sunday in clashes between police and striking workers in northern Egypt, security sources said. A further 75 people were arrested for inciting a riot after the unrest in the industrial town of Kafr Al Dawwar, on the outskirts of the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria. They said 300 workers at the state-owned spinning and weaving company were protesting over pay and working hours. Three workers were killed in the incident and 29 were hurt. Eleven policemen were also reported injured. There were no further details.

Berber rally demands release of singer

ALGIERS (AFP) — More than 100,000 Berber demonstrators threatened insurrection Sunday unless suspected Islamic fundamentalist kidnappers released singer Lounes Matoub, throwing down the gauntlet to extremists. The rally was held in the northern Algerian town of Tizi-Ouzou. The crowd demanding the release of Mr. Matoub, a popular Berber singer, gathered at the inauguration of the Berber Cultural Movement (MCB). Outrage at the kidnapping eclipsed the MCB's other demand for the recognition of the Berber's Tamazight language.

Israelis strafe resistance trails

SIDON (AP) — Israeli tanks and helicopter gunships blasted infiltration trails used by guerrillas Sunday, foiling an attack on Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon, security sources reported. They said tanks and Howitzers pounded nine tracks in the Jahl Al Rafia area in Iqlim Al Tuffah, a guerrilla squad was spotted moving towards the Israeli-occupied enclave at 9:30 a.m. (0730 GMT). The sources said two Cobra helicopters later machine-gunned the area and other trails in the highlands of Iqlim Al Tuffah, a stronghold of Hizbollah.

IAF names Akalleh for speakership

AMMAN (Petra) — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) on Sunday nominated Abdullah Akalleh as its candidate for speakership of the Lower House of Parliament, spokesman for the IAF said Sunday.

Gulf Air to resume Bombay flights

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain-based Gulf Air said on Sunday it would resume flights to and from Bombay but would use Bahrain only as a transit point. "Gulf Air would like to announce the reinstatement of its flights between India and the rest of the world using Bahrain as a transit point only, effective from today," a company statement said.

Kuwait MP: Islamists are not terrorists

KUWAIT (R) — A Muslim fundamentalist member of parliament (MP) has told a Kuwaiti newspaper that local Islamists have no ties with Muslim militants elsewhere in the Middle East. "The only connection between terrorism and Islamic groups is the one made by the Islamists' enemies," Sunday's Al Watan quoted MP Mubarak Al Duwailah as saying. "We say they should try to prove some of this. We are sure they can't, because there is no evidence," he said.

Turkey threatens Greece with war

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has threatened Greece with war if Athens extends its territorial waters in the Aegean Sea into Turkish territory. Foreign Minister Muztar Soyas said on Sunday. Mr. Soyas said he issued the warning to his Greek counterpart, Karolos Papoulias, while both were attending the United Nations General Assembly last week.

Hogg visits Syria to boost trade ties

DAMASCUS (AFP) — British Foreign Office Minister of State Douglas Hogg arrived Sunday in the Syrian capital for a three-day visit aimed at bolstering economic ties between the two countries. Mr. Hogg was greeted by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasir Kaddur and was to meet several ministers during his visit. "This is the third time I have been to Syria and the purpose is to continue to build up relations between the British and Syrian governments, and to talk about regional problems," Mr. Hogg said on his arrival.

Fighting continues in Somali capital

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Heavy inter-clan fighting continued for the second day running on Sunday in the southern part of the Somali capital, U.N. military spokesman Major Rick McDonald announced here. Maj. McDonald told a press briefing here that intensive fighting erupted again along Madina and Uganda streets south of Mogadishu, in which rocket propelled grenades and recoilless rifles were used.

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